Issue No 82 Available from Wednesday, April 8, 2009



MONEY MATTERS

Pull-out supplement on how to beat the crunch



LOVING TRIBUTE TO BIKE DEATH FATHER

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STOP A WHILE: A new truck stop is opened on the outskirts of Dover. Search 'truck'

ALSO INSIDE

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OUR VANISHED PUBS

An exhibition showing Dover's old pubs has opened at the town museum. In the 1880s, Dover had 300 pubs and beer houses – the equivalent of one per 100 inhabitants. But the Compensation Act of 1904, introduced to cut the number of pubs nationally, forced many to close. Projects by the Dover Corporation and redevelopment of the docks saw the demolition of old streets and pubs... and then came the Luftwaffe in the Second World War. By 1969 there were just 81 pubs left in the town. The exhibition is open until the end of May – phone 01304 201066 or visit www.dovermuseum.co.uk for more details.

■ BY **MARIJKE COX**

THE teenage daughter of a motorcyclist who died in a crash near Whitfield has paid tribute to her "kind and well-liked" father.

Maciej Lipiarz, 45, of London Road, Dover, died when his Yamaha Virago hit a round-about at the top of the slip-road by the A2 on Friday last week, just after 6.15am.

The father-of-one, who moved to England from Poland two years ago with his partner Magdalina, was returning from working a night-shift at Tilmanstone Salads.

His daughter Alicja, 19, had arrived from Poland three days before the crash to spend a month with her father before moving here permanently. She had hoped to find a job during her stay.

Mr Lipiarz had just moved to a home in London Road which he had hoped to share with his daughter.

He worked at Tilmanstone Salads and according to his family was "very proud" of Alicja, who wants to be an interior designer. She said: "My father lived for motorbikes, he

She said: "My father lived for motorbikes, he loved them. He was a very kind man, always there for friends and family and always willing to put himself out for others.

"He was well liked in the Polish community

"He was well liked in the Polish community and among his workmates. He will always live on in my soul."

Alicja has now returned to Poland, where the funeral will take place. Police attended the scene and the road was closed until 10.45am.

It is not believed any other vehicle was involved. Anyone with information is asked to phone police on 01622 798538.









WHAT'S ON & WATCH yourkenttv.co.uk

TOP TV CLIPS



Kent Life has opened its doors for 2009 promising a full family day out. **Search 'family**'



Discovering the crypt in St Peter's Church, Sandwich; one of the county's best kept secrets to visit. **Search 'crypt'**



3

Members of The Royal Sussex living history regiment at Folkestone's Shorncliffe Barracks. **Search 'history'**

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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Printed by Newsfax

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OPENING: Guests at the opening of the new truck stop off the A2 at Whitfield last Thursday

Truck stop to cut number of HGVs parking in town

BY MARIJKE COX

A FAMILY-RUN truck stop has been opened just outside Dover to help ease the pressure of parked lorries in the town.

Situated just off the A2 in Whitfield, the 24-hour park, owned by Priority Freight, will give truckers access to facilities, including an American-style diner, a refrigerated parking area, showers and toilets.

It can hold a maximum of 100 lorries with multi-lingual staff on hand to cater to the truckers' needs.

MP Gwyn Prosser and the chairman of Dover District Council, Bernard Butcher, commended the work of the Williams family, who are behind the new facility, during the opening ceremony on Thursday, Cllr Butcher said: "This will benefit

Cllr Butcher said: "This will benefit everybody and it has the support of the council and community.

"We as councillors know the problems the town has had with congestion caused by parked vehicles through calls from the public citing their concerns.

"Abandoned vehicles and lorries set on fire or being burgled and vandalised are all known problems, so this new facility will ensure a secure area for drivers.

"The more of these HGVs we can get off the public highways the better for all concerned because apart from anything else it costs the ratepayer an awful lot in enforcement costs."

As well as facilities to keep the truckers entertained during their stay, including a TV and juke box in the diner, security is tight, ensuring vehicles are safe at night.

The site is surrounded by a threemetre-high security fence, 13 separate CCTV cameras and 24-hour patrols by security staff.

But the main hope for the Dover community is that the park will minimise the amount of HGVs parked at the side of the roads, with many people fed up with rubbish and urine-filled bottles being left behind.

at the side of the roads, with many people fed up with rubbish and urine-filled bottles being left behind.

George Williams, chairman of Priority Freight, said: "Every lay-by is crammed will lorries, some parked dangerously and precariously and it must be a great concern to everybody—it's only a matter of time before serious accidents occur.

"The other factors are the crime that is attracted to laden lorries and the issue of hygiene.

"I believe drivers are the salt of the earth. Practically everything we need comes in on a lorry. I think we've never taken seriously enough what it is like to be a driver.

"We've tried to ensure that they can get a good night's sleep, a warm shower and a decent home-cooked meal.

"I am proud that we as a family company can open a truck stop like this."

 For more information about the site's other facilities and overnight costs, you can visit www. priorityfreight.co.uk.

Thumbs up for big Olympic TV

A GIANT television screen is to be installed in Dover's Market Square after the Olympic live site was given the go-ahead.

Dover District Council's planning committee voted for plans to go forward following a four-hour site visit last week and subsequent meeting on Thursday evening.

Thursday evening.

Dover will be the first town in England to have a live site, measuring eight metres by four metres, with the other seven screens being put up in cities around the country.

Located in the centre of town, the

Located in the centre of town, the screen will show major sporting and cultural events, including the Winter Olympics in 2011 and Olympic Games in 2012.

Paul Watkins, Conservative leader of DDC, said: "The screen represents a physical legacy from the 2012 Games and provides another key element in the partnership working that is reshaping Dover district for a very positive future.

"We are now adding a new dimension to Dover's cultural offer and this will provide an important asset for our communities, for the town and for the area."

The screen was secured by Kent County Council's sports, leisure and Olympics service working with the London organising committee for the Olympic Games.

Celebrations

The district council, Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT and Dover Pride helped with the planning, while the BBC will provide content and manage the screen following its installation.

BBC will provide content and manage the screen following its installation. Mike Hill, Cabinet member for communities at KCC, said he hoped it would help local people get into the Olympic spirit. He said: "The live site will really put

He said: "The live site will really put Dover and the county on the national map as an enthusiastic supporter of the London 2012 celebrations."

The decision to have the screen erected follows a two-month debate where residents and councillors have been split on whether it would benefit the town if installed.

Thursday's planning meeting saw the Tories voting for and the Labour members against – with the majority agreeing to the plans.

Tory Sue Nicolas, who is not on the planning committee, had openly made her views known that she was against the live site, with others calling it "a step forward" for Dover.

Dover Town Council pledged its support last month after its planning committee voted not to object to the screen.





MP in call for solution to free oil worker in Nigeria

BY MARIJKE COX

DOVER MP Gwyn Prosser has called for the release of an oil worker from St Margaret's who is being held hostage by militants in Nigeria.

Robin Hughes, 59, had been living in Brazil and was working on an oil supply vessel when he was captured by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), along with 27 others in September last year.

Since then, the hostages have been released, with the exception of Robin and fellow Briton Mathew Maguire.

Robin's younger brother Mark, from Dover, has been fighting along with the rest of his family to get him freed and has appealed to the Foreign Office to do more to secure his release. Mr Prosser has been in close contact with the

family in St Margaret's and appealed on their behalf to the Foreign Secretary and Minister of Africa Lord Malloch Brown.

He said: "Tve made a written representation to the Foreign Secretary, I've had discussions with the Minister of Africa and just last week I received back briefings on the situation.

The Nigerian militants are refusing to let the two Brits go unless Henry Okah, the leader of MEND who is on trial for gun-running and

treason, is released.

Mr Prosser said: "Some of the revolutionary groups are demanding the release of this terrorist. I still feel the situation can be resolved. To find a solution doesn't mean we have to meet all the requests of the hostage takers.

Mark said he was finding it difficult to see an end to it and was worried it could go on and on. But Mr Prosser said good representations



HOSTAGE: Robin Hughes (left) and Mathew Maquire were kidnapped during a raid by militants in the Niger Delta

were being made at the highest level with ministers in England, the President of Nigeria and foreign ministers via the British Consulate.

He added: "I am assured Robin is being looked after, but I have every sympathy for his family. Being a former merchant seafarer myself, I know how dangerous that stretch of the Niger Delta is.

"More and more people are being taken by pirates there and it's a great worry."

A spokesman at the Foreign Office said: "We

can confirm there was an incident on a motor vessel off the coast of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, around 12pm on September 9 in which two British nationals were abducted.

We call for their immediate and unconditional release.

"We remain in close contact with their families and our thoughts are with them at this deeply distressing time.

The Nigerian authorities are in the lead on the investigation into the incident and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are in touch

"We are not prepared to discuss who might be behind the attack."

Birthday party brawl arrests

FIVE men have been arrested following a disturbance at an 18th birthday party at Sandwich Cricket Club.

A total of 12 arrests have been made since the incident on Friday, March 6, in which gatecrashers threw bottles, cans and ashtrays at guests.

The latest arrests involve five men aged between 17 and 21, all from the Dover district, who were arrested for violent disorder on Wednesday, April 1.

They have been bailed pending further enquiries.

Ch Supt Chris Hogben, area commander of the south Kent policing area, said: "These further arrests show how seriously the incident is being taken and how thoroughly it is being investigated.

"My officers and I are determined to ensure the offenders for this mindless act of violence are brought to justice.

"The decent, law-abiding people of south Kent expect the police to enforce



Rower over **Moon with** new sponsor

DEAL'S teenage rowing star Hannah Moon has met double Olympic gold-medallist Sarah Webb to mark her second year of sponsorship from P&O Ferries.

The operator is supporting five young Kent athletes in their ambitions for the Olympics and Paralympics in 2012.

Sailing sensation Sarah Webb – part of the squad tagged 'three blondes in a boat' during the Beijing Games – presented Hannah, 18, with £3,000, as the second instalment in the five-year programme.

Simon Johnson, director of tourist sales and marketing at P&O Ferries, said: "In addition to handing over sponsorship money and new sports kit, Sarah offered the ath-letes an insight into what it takes to hit the summit of sporting success.

We appreciate her taking time to visit us and help inspire the next generation of sports stars.'

The five athletes being supported by P&O were chosen through their national coaching bodies working closely with KCC's sports development unit.

The P&O Ferries Talented Athlete Programme is part of the company's £250,000 sponsorship of the KCC Sport, Leisure and Olympics Service.

Council hits back at decision to not let under-16s swim free

DOVER District Council has defended its decision not to provide free swimming for under-16s following criticism from the town's MP.

Gwyn Prosser, who represents Dover and Deal, took part in the launch of the Government-led free swimming scheme alongside former world-record-holder and Olympic swimmer Mark Foster.

But the Labour politician has criticised his own constituency's council for only providing free swimming for people aged 60 or over, instead of both age groups like 200 other local authorities.

He said: "Our own district council in Dover has taken advantage of the Government funding for the over-60s $\,$ and I congratulate it on that, but for some reason it's elected not to take up the opportunity of free swimming for our young people and that's deeply disappointing.

"Four out of every five local councils in England – almost 300 – have signed up to provide free swimming for over-60s, with more than 200 councils offering it also to young people, including our neighbours in Thanet and Shepway.

"So why couldn't DDC be more

ambitious and extend free swimming to our own youngsters? They should be forced to explain the reasons for their mean decision."

A council spokesman said it was a lack of funding that led to the decision but that DDC was committed to providing support for youngsters' swimming needs.

"Regrettably the funding offered for the 16-and-under scheme was insufficient to cover the very substantial costs involved and so the council is instead working with the local health authority on a range of proposals which seek to subsidise some swimming for young people focused on those most in need.

Dover Leisure Centre and Tides Leisure Centre in Deal are both involved in the scheme, along with Vista Leisure.

The £140 million Government initiative aims to get two million people more active by the time London hosts the Olympic and Paralympics in 2012.

• For swimming pool programmes or further information, visit www.vistaleisure.com or call Dover Leisure Centre on 01304 201145 or Tides Leisure Centre on 01304 373399.



Great strides to help cystic fibrosis charity

PEOPLE from around Kent are invited on a walk along the white cliffs of Dover to raise money for cystic fibrosis research.

The four or six-mile walk, depending on the length people wish to go, is taking place on Sunday, May 17, as part of a worldwide project called Great Strides.

Hundreds of people will be taking part to raise funds to help the 8,000 people who suffer from cystic fibrosis.

Joanne Holdaway, regional fund-raising manager for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, said: "This is going to be a fantastic walk along the famous cliff-top to South Foreland lighthouse and back with fabulous views of the Channel."

The walk starts at 10.30am from the National Trust visitor centre at Langdon Cliffs.

Entry £6 for adults and £2.50 for children, which includes a T-shirt and sponsorship pack.

• To sign up, visit www.greatstrides.org.uk.

Museum putting the past back together

VISITORS to Dover Museum are being given the chance to design their own jigsaw as part of the Our Childhood Past exhibition.

The event is being held on Wednesday, April 15, from 10am-4.30pm, and children and adults alike can have a go at a variety of jigsaws as well as designing and making their own.

There is no extra charge for these activities and normal admission prices apply of £2.50 for adults and £1.50 for children, senior citizens and concessions.

Admission to the museum is free for Dover district residents, but proof of address is required.





LEAPS OF FUN AT NEW GYM

Dover Gymnastics Club has celebrated its 33rd birthday with the opening of new premises.

MP Gwyn Prosser cut the ceremonial ribbon at the new, larger building in Poulton Close to herald a new era for the club.

The event also celebrated the club's GymMark status and Dover Mayor Diane Smallwood, a former member of the club, presented a commemorative plaque to mark the achievement.

The club's new status means it has been recognised by British Gymnastics, Sport England and the Home Country Sports Councils as a safe and effective club.

Frank Critcher, club chairman, said: "This is an exciting time for the club and the move to bigger premises will allow us to grow and develop to meet the needs of existing and future members.

"None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our wonderful volunteers who spend hours and hours of their own time to run the club so that our young members have nice facilities to use."

Authorities to bid for £5m boost to transport services

DOVER'S transport services could get a multi-million-pound boost following an invitation from the Government to put in a bid for funding.

More than £5 million could be awarded to the district to help deliver schemes as part of the Government's Growth Areas and Growth Points programme, which helps communities pursuing large-scale development.

Dover District Council, Kent County Council and their partners must submit business plans showcasing what improvements are needed for the area.

These are seen as including a £3.3m bid for Dover Priory train station, £1.6m for junction improvements and £500,000 for further investment in public transport.

The schemes are three of just 26 from across the UK that will be considered by the Government as part of a second round of transport funding.

The first stage offered £170m, made available

BY MARIJKE COX

to 29 transport projects aimed at supporting the development of new housing.

Now a further £30m could help support the 26 other schemes – including those earmarked for Dover.

Housing minister Margaret Beckett said: "We know that good transport links are vital to successful communities and these projects will unlock the potential for new housing where it is needed."

The Government's announcement comes as the district prepares for the arrival of the highspeed rail link later this year.

Paul Watkins, Tory leader of DDC, said: "This is important news and we are working hard with KCC and partners to bring a detailed business case together.

"Growth Point status is helping to provide the working finance to deliver regeneration and this is further positive news as a range of developments are brought together to reshape the future of the area."

Ben Bano, leader of the Labour group at DDC, was also pleased with the announcement.

He said: "I welcome the green light being vigen to develop these schemes. Dover and its district depend on good transport links. It's good to see that even in difficult times the Government is prepared to invite bids to back Dover."

If the bids are successful, the district could see more than £5m, taken from the Community Infrastructure Fund, being pumped into transport schemes over the next few years.

This will be needed to support the controversial mass housing development set out in the council's core strategy, should it go ahead.

This proposes a minimum of 10,100 homes to be built by 2026, with the possibility of up to 14,000.

Among the criticism aimed at the plans is the lack of infrastructure to support such intense development, but with the Growth Point bids being made, the council believes this can be overcome.



Big drop in district house prices is the second largest in country

DOVER has experienced the second biggest fall in house prices in the country.

According to property website Zoopla.co.uk, the town has seen a fall of almost 22 per cent, putting it just behind Chertsey in Surrey, where house prices have dropped the most, by 23.48 per cent.

The value of the UK's housing market overall has dipped by 18.62 per cent due to the recession, but property prices in Dover are falling in some cases by more than £100 a day.

some cases by more than £100 a day.

Alex Chesterman, chief executive of Zoopla, said: "Those areas that have experienced the largest value drops over the past 12 months are the very same areas that have grown at a faster pace than others in the preceding years.

"There have been some welcome signs of a slowing in the rate of decline of UK house

BY MARIJKE COX

prices over the past few weeks and positive signals coming from both estate agents and lenders in terms of activity levels.

"However, it is too early to tell whether this is a short-term seasonal bounce or a more sustained effect as the market finds a bottom."

According to Zoopla, the average house price in Dover is £156,505, but sales of less than £100,000 for terraced properties have been made in the past few months.

Charlie Elphicke, Conservative parliamentary candidate for Dover and Deal, said the findings underlined the need to strengthen the local economy.

"We need more business, money and jobs locally, especially higher-skilled, higher-paid jobs.

"Investment in our transport infrastructure, Dover's regeneration and more business space really matters.

"I am deeply concerned about the Government's failure to invest in roads and lack of help for Manston airport."

The parliamentary hopeful also criticised the Environment Agency for holding up regeneration and the planned new hospital due to fears of flooding.

of flooding.

He said: "We need more action from the Government to help move Dover forward. The current situation is very damaging."

Other areas around the country have been left virtually untouched, with Lewes in East Sussex – only 85 miles away from Dover – seeing a fall of just seven per cent.

Zoopla.co.uk updates home values daily for all 26 million UK homes, allowing users to track the value of any property.

Raise your glass to help children with cataracts

A COFFEE shop in Dover is hosting a charity night to raise money for the Childhood Cataract Network.

Childhood Cataract Network.

The event is being held at La Salle
Verte on Saturday, May 2, at 7.30pm,
and a representative from The Body
Shop will be on hand to show off beauty
products while guests enjoy a glass of
wine.

Wille.

A raffle is being organised, with prizes already donated by SeaFrance, Vista Leisure, Pigotts Solicitors, The Ramada Inn and White Cliffs Tours.

Haydn and Diane Billson, owners of La Salle Verte, have offered the venue and staff free of charge for the evening after a customer whose child suffers from cataracts approached them about holding a fund-raising event.

Tickets cost £5.

• For more information or to reserve a place, email lasalleverte@aol.com or phone 01304 201547.



CADETS HAVE LYNX EFFECT

Dover Sea Cadets have been praised by the district's parliamentary candidate for their Royal Naval Parade.

Charlie Elphicke, the Tory hopeful for Dover and Deal, said that parents of the Cadets at TS Lynx, the Mayor of Dover, MP Gwyn Prosser and a number of councillors were all impressed with how the youngsters coped under inspection by a senior officer of the Royal Navy.

Mr Elphicke said: "Seeing the Sea Cadets on parade, I felt so proud of our young people. They were a credit to their parents and to Dover. If this is our future, it is going to be a good one. The Dover Sea Cadets are a growing force. I hope even more young people will join the Sea Cadets."

IT engineers make the grade

THREE IT engineers from the Port of Dover are among just seven in the world to be awarded a new professional qualification.

Ben Johnston, Mark Burton and Mike Demetriou, who are responsible for IT systems which handle more than 20,000 ferry movements and 14 million passengers a year, have all gained their ICTTECH from the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

Institution of Engineering and Technology.

Daniel Gillett, head of ICT services at the port, said: "I am very proud to see three of my team achieve the first level with flying colours."

"I hope that nine other ICT engineers from the port will join them within the next year in what I am sure will become the industryrecognised measure of well-rounded ICT skills and experience.

"The industry has numerous supplier-specific qualifications – which give employers a clear picture of team-members' knowledge and ability to work with those suppliers' products.

products.

"But what we've lacked before now is independent accreditation that recognises the importance of individuals' broader professional skills"

The IT team at the port has worked with the Institution of Engineering and Technology to develop the qualification and is pushing for additional standards or recognition up to chartered status.



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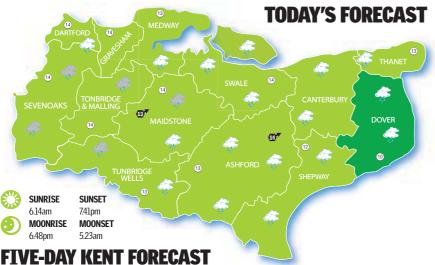
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WEEKEND

HIGH TIDES



Gravesend

Maidstone

Ramsgate

Rochester

Sevenoaks

Tonbridge

Tun Wells

Sittingbourne 12°C

Chatham	Saturday	2:48pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:21pm	6.0m
Dover	Saturday	1:03pm	6.5m
	Sunday	1:37pm	6.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:02pm	7.7m
	Sunday	1:36pm	7.5m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:33pm	5.0m
	Sunday	2:07pm	4.9m
Sheerness	Saturday	2:38pm	5.8m
	Sunday	3:11pm	5.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:54pm	5.2m
	Sunday	3:25pm	5.1m

WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	16°C	Madrid	22°C
Athens	11°C	New York	14°C
Barcelona	16°C	Paris	19°C
Beijing	26°C	Rome	17°C
Bombay	36°C	Sydney	19°C
Cape Town	21°C	Tenerife	22°C
Cardiff	11°C	Tokyo	18°C
Gibraltar	17°C	Vancouver	12°C
Hong Kong	19°C	Warsaw	14°C
Las Palmas	22°C	Wellington	18°C

Kent on Saturday proves more news is good news

KENT 🕅 SATURDAY

KOS Media is proud to announce the addition of Kent on Saturday to its award-winning

series of newspapers.

Incorporating all the best aspects of our existing Kentish Saturday Observer, this exciting new publication will cover all the biggest news and sports stories of the week and reach more readers than ever before.

At a time when other local newspaper groups are being forced to cut back on staff and resources, the birth of Kent on Saturday demonstrates that KOS Media, the publisher of this paper, is still thriving despite the economic climate.

Managing director Paul Stannard said: "This is another exciting development for us at KOS Media following the launch of our two new YourLocal papers in Deal and Sandwich last month, which demonstrates our commitment to delivering hard-hitting news throughout the county.

Delivery

"Kent on Saturday will sit as an equal to our award-winning Kent on Sunday publication and act as the perfect start to the weekend."

Readers will be able to get their hands on a copy of the free paper from next weekend, with the number of available copies being significantly higher than was offered by the Kentish Saturday Observer.

Kent on Saturday will be available from all good newsagents and retail outlets from this Saturday. Alternatively, you can go green by

reading it free on screen at www.kentnews.co.uk. Meanwhile, KOS Media is running a new promotion to offer free delivery of its weekend papers to selected homes. To find out more visit www.kentnews.co.uk/free.



Fri

12°C

Ashford

Chatham

Dartford

Faversham

Folkestone

Gillingham

Dover

Canterbury

13°C | 13°C | 13°C | 13°C | 12°C

14°C

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Fri

13°C

12°C

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Sat

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11°C | 12°C | 12°C | 11°C | 11°C

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13°C | 12°C

13°C 12°C

Sun

14°C | 13°C | 13°C | 13°C

Mon

12°C

11°C

13°C | 13°C

| 11°C | 11°C

11°C

13°C | 13°C | 12°C | 12°C

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QUESTION & ANSWER

LAURA THORNTON



How did you get involved with the charity?

In 2007 I was working as a press officer in the public sector and wanted a complete change of career after working in communications for about six years. I saw a community fund-raising job advertised on Macmillan's website – everything about it sounded exciting and I realised what an amazing charity it is. Fundraising is challenging but very rewarding, and Macmillan is passionate about what we do.

Can you tell us a little about the charity?

Macmillan Cancer Support was set up by Douglas Macmillan in 1911 and we help people affected by cancer by giving practical, emotional, financial and medical support. As treatments improve, more and more people are living with cancer in their daily lives. Macmillan's ambition is to reach and improve the lives of everyone affected by cancer by 2010.

the lives of everyone affected by cancer by 2010. As well as our incredible health-care professionals, including Macmillan nurses, we provide financial grants and last year we gave more than £232,000 to some 660 people in Kent. Our national helpline CancerLine is available for people who need help on 0808 808 2020.

As a team we work with local supporters, including our committees and other fundraising groups, to raise money through public collections and local events. We also attend cheque presentations, recruit volunteers, give

talks about Macmillan, issue fund-raising advice to supporters, write newsletters, ensure our website is fully up to date and put on events such as sponsored walks.

Mhat is the most challenging part of your job?

Macmillan is fortunate enough to have fantastic supporters across Kent and we are always looking to expand by recruiting more volunteers. Generating as many donations as we would like can be challenging, especially in the current climate, but this is an exciting challenge at the same time. It can be challenging to keep thinking of new and innovative ways to fundraise and ensure the money keeps coming in.

What is the best thing about working for Macmillan?

The best bit about my job is working with our supporters – hearing their stories is inspirational. We have passionate, talented and dedicated supporters and being able to help them organise fund-raising events is rewarding. I also enjoy raising awareness of Macmillan using the media. The events we have are great fun to be involved with – there's a lot of variety.

Do you get a lot of volunteers signing up to help out?

We have many dedicated volunteers who give up a lot of their time to raise money for Macmillan. For example, our Deal fund-raising committee has been working for Macmillan for more than 30 years and raised more than £20,000 last year. A Macmillan nurse costs £184 a day, so this level of fund-raising is invaluable to us. Volunteers are invaluable and we are looking for more people to help us raise funds for people affected by cancer.

What kind of set-up do you have in east Kent?

Macmillan helps support many people through our teams in Margate, Canterbury and Ashford. Last year we helped people with grants in Dover, Deal, Thanet, Canterbury, Sandwich, Ashford and Herne Bay.

What fund-raising events have you organised recently?

We have just been at the Paddock Wood halfmarathon, where a team of Macmillan runners was pounding the streets. May is our walking month and we're hoping as many people as possible will organise their own walks with friends and family. Readers can go to our new website www.macmillan.org.uk/walking to find out more and register today.

Mow do people sign up to volunteer?

We'd love to hear from anyone who could spare a few hours, whether it's collecting or organising an event. Phone 01622 60050, or email lthornton@macmillan.org.uk.

Laura Thornton, fund-raising manager at Macmillan Cancer Support, talks to **Marijke Cox** about the work the charity does through events and its need for more volunteers to help raise much-needed funds

THE ORCHID

The newspaper of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Inside the Spring/Summer issue 2009

- Guide to visiting the Kent Downs
- Orchids
- Woodlands feature
- Cycle route
- Book reviews
- Cherry orchards
- Events and more



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www.kentnews.co.uk and click in The Orchid image at the bottom of the home page.





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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Prepaid cards

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animal park

JUST before Christmas the Aspinall Foundation, in conjunction with KOS Media, publisher of this newspaper, offered readers the chance to win a VIP

family trip around Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe.

park and a trip in a safari vehicle around

The prize includes free entry to the

'Bankers who sparked crisis deserve prison'

LEADING journalist and broadcaster Andrew Neil has lashed out at a business conference at the banks that sparked the economic

He told delegates at the Kent 2020 Vision business exhibition that he would like to see some bankers go jail - but that would probably happen in the US rather than here.

Mr Neil, a former Sunday Times editor who is now chief of Press Holdings and owner of The Spectator, said the problem was not lack of banking regulation but failure to implement existing rules

He said: "I do think everyone was complicit in this. The banks are clearly the number one villain, but everyone looked the other way.

"I don't think the banks should be regulated to hell, but I would like to see some of them

BY TONY PATEY

"I would like to see the handcuffs on some of the bankers because I think they have broken the law and I do think they deserve to go to

"I think that will happen in America, although I would hope to think in this country as well - but I do look forward to it happening in the US."

Kent County Council leader Paul Carter told the conference that plans would be unveiled this year aimed at boosting the number of youngsters taking up apprenticeships in Kent.

The proposals should increase the number of apprentices from about 2,000 to 8,000 within a

More than 3,000 business people attended the fourth annual 2020 Vision event at the County Showground, Detling, on Thursday.



ANDREW NEIL: Angered by banks' role in credit crunch

the African Experience, a 100-acre site next to the park with breathtaking views

of the English Channel.
Entrants were asked to either send in a postal entry with their contact details or take advantage of registering for a free Aspinall prepaid Maestro card.

Registration

Some readers experienced problems with the online registration for the card due to a malfunction, so KOS Media readers are invited to try again and register on www.savinggorillas.com for their free Aspinall Foundation Maestro prepaid card.

It is easy to apply for and no credit

Young people aged between 13 and 17 can also apply, as long as they have their parents' permission.

The card can be used as a debit card but is topped up like a mobile phone and all profits associated with using it are given back to the Foundation.

By using this card, help will be given to support the Foundation's African projects in Congo and Gabon, as well as to the important work carried out in the UK and other parts of the world.

The card is a safe alternative to carrying cash and is accepted worldwide. The account can easily be managed online with instant top-up available.

The winner of the VIP family trip around Port Lympne is Elizabeth Instone, from Chatham.

World leaders given a taste of Kent's finest

WORLD leaders in London for the G20 summit were served a 'best of British' dinner that included vegetables from the Garden of

US president Barack Obama, French president Nicolas Sarkozy and other leaders of the 20 richest countries in the world sat down together for a meal cooked by Jamie Oliver at Downing Street on Wednesday last week.

The party tucked into a starter of organic Scottish salmon served with samphire and sea kale, with a selection of vegetables from Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

For the main course, slow-roasted shoulder of lamb from a hill farm in Wales was served with Jersey Royal potatoes, wild mushrooms and mint sauce.

Dessert was a classic comfort food of Bakewell tart and custard.

As the leaders debated the benefits of fiscal stimulus, their spouses enjoyed a more relaxed dinner hosted by Sarah Brown with celebrity guests from the worlds of fashion, sports, business and the arts.

Olympic gold-medallist Dame Kelly Holmes, from Tonbridge, was seated next to Michelle Obama. On the other side of the First Lady was Harry Potter author JK Rowling.

The G20 summit saw the leaders come together at the Excel centre in London's Docklands on Thursday to agree measures to tackle the worst global financial crisis since



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06.40 - 07.40 **Early Spin** 09.30 - 10.15 **'Vibe' Spin** 20.00 - 21.00 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

AQUA

19.30 - 20.15 **Aqua**

GYM

10.30 - 11.30 Plan B

tuesday

STUDIO 1

06.45 - 07.30 Body Pump 10.30 - 11.30 Body Pump 12.15 - 13.00 Step 18.00 - 19.00 Step 19.00 - 20.15 Fitness Yoga

SPIN STUDIO

11.45 - 12.30 **Advanced Spin** 18.00 - 18.30 **Begin to Spin** 18.45 - 19.30 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

AQUA

11.15 - 12.00 Aqua Attack

wednesday

STUDIO 1

 09.30 - 10.30
 BLT Blitz

 14.30 - 15.30
 Young at Heart

 19.00 - 20.00
 Body Combat

 20.00 - 21.00
 Body Pump

SPIN STUDIO

06.45 - 07.30 **Early Spin** 09.45 - 10.30 **Spin** 17.30 - 18.15 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

12.30 - 13.30 Pilates
13.30 - 14.30 Chi Ball
16.00 - 17.30 Power Yoga
18.00 - 19.00 Stretch & Tone
19.30 - 20.45 Pilates

AQUA

12.15 - 13.00 **Aqua**

thursday

STUDIO 1

09.30 - 10.30 Body Pump
18.00 - 19.00 Boxercise
19.00 - 20.00 Total Body
Blast
20.00 - 21.00 Swiss Ball Blitz

SPIN STUDIO

MIND & BODY

09.45 - 11.15 **Yoga** 11.30 - 12.30 **Pilates**

AQUA

11.30 - 12.15 **Aqua** 20.15 - 21.00 **Aqua**

GYM

20.15 - 21.15 **Plan B**

friday

STUDIO 1

SPIN STUDIO

MIND & BODY

10.15 - 11.45 **Yoga**

AQUA

11.15 - 12.00 Aqua Attack

saturday

STUDIO 1

08.15 - 09.15 Body Combat
09.15 - 10.15 Body Pump
13.00 - 14.00 Fit Club (6-8 yrs)
19.00 - 19.30 Abs & Tone

SPIN STUDIO

13.00 - 13.45 **Spin**

MIND & BODY

08.15 - 09.00 Abs, Stretch & Tone
09.00 - 09.15 Body Pump Clinic
09.30 - 10.30 Pilates
11.30 - 12.30 Pilates

sunday

STUDIO 1

SPIN STUDIO

08.45 - 10.00 **Yoga** 10.15 - 11.00 **Spin** 17.00 - 18.00 **Spin & Abs**

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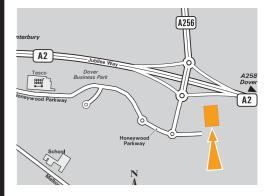
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Mulberry Tree's deep local roots

FLIPPING over a menu in a restaurant today is rarely an eyeopening experience.

Maybe it will have the desserts ... or perhaps simply a heavy hint to leave a tip if you believe the service has been up to scratch. Some, simply a splodge of someone else's leftovers. Yet for one restaurant in a pretty village just outside Maidstone, it has turned it into an opportunity to underline its Kentish credentials.

Because at the award-winning Mulberry Tree in Boughton Monchelsea, owners list the suppliers of all the main ingredients.

It is a transparency which has proved a big hit for the restaurant and played a role in it scooping the prestigious restaurant of the year title in the Taste of Kent awards at Leeds Castle in February.

The Produced in Kent-backed awards reward those who support local suppliers and producers. Putting the source of the food in the diners' face proved a shrewd move.

Karen Williams, the owner of the Mulberry Tree, said: "It works in two ways. It's great advertising for them, but it keeps them on their toes, too. For example – and not that it's ever happened – but if someone is eating a piece of meat they don't think comes up to scratch, the supplier's name is on the menu so they are named and shamed.

"It's quite an unusual thing to do and we get an awful lot of comments about it.'

Today, nearly two years in, it has bucked the trend as its revenues increase in what is traditionally one of the slowest periods of the year. And with both her mother and daughter involved in the day-to-day running, it is very much a personal, family-run business.

Yet it is the food which puts this hidden treasure in the spotlight.

In a perfect fit with our campaign of urging our readers to demand locally produced and sourced food and drink – spearheaded by our www.foodforkent.co.uk website – it is a vision embraced wholeheartedly by the Mulberry Tree. And it takes a need to 'go







BUY LOCAL: Karen Williams, owner of the Mulberry Tree restaurant at Boughton Monchelsea, names her local suppliers on the menu

local' very seriously. All its meat comes from nearby Cranbrook - the beef from the Angley School farm and the venison from Staplehurst. Wild mushrooms are foraged locally by an expert and the fish is chosen fresh from the catch of the day by crews in Hythe. Even the flour for the freshly-made and baked bread is local. It has even secured

the once thought impossible and put together an entirely Kentish cheeseboard.

The owner adds: "Sourcing local is the way forward. Life changes and we evolve with it. By doing this we're championing the little people. I've always dealt with local suppliers – not as consciously as I do now – but it is

"We are a little person. An independent. We have to fight hard to survive. Spending local-

"Campaigns such as yours are tapping into a real shift right now. It's like cutting down on using carrier bags. Now when I go shopping I consciously make an effort to buy sea-

Delicious Easter Kentish feast delivered to your door

WHAT better way to celebrate Easter this year than sitting down to a delicious feast of Kent food and drink?

And by shopping at www.foodforkent.co.uk you can do just that. We have teamed up with the top producers from across the county to allow you to order up a tasty Easter for your friends and family.

Our one-stop online shop makes buying local easy - just browse the huge range and select your delivery window. Before you know it, it will be delivered straight to your door.

This week, we have Easter lamb, reared in Ash, near Canterbury. It comes from one of the oldest breeds in the world, The Romney – sometimes referred to as The Kent – producing consistent quality for centuries. And at £1725 per leg you can save £2.73 on Sainsbury's prices of Welsh lamb.

We're also working closely with Griggs of Hythe to bring you some fabulous local fish while being kind to your pocket. There is 10 per cent off all our prices until Good Friday. You



can make savings compared to all the major supermarkets and be comfortable in the knowledge that your fish has come

Its spring too, and this means lots of fresh local vegetables

and salads coming into season to arrive with you the day after they were picked and with minimal environmental impact. So have a happy Easter with www.foodforkent.co.uk.

Coming into season this week:

- Spring greens
- Spring lamb
- Dover sole
- Red mullet



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BREAK TIME

Brilliant biathlete

A STUDENT at Walmer Science College put in a superb performance at this year's British Schools Biathlon Championship.

Year ten pupil Dan Seagrove-Castle earned his place at the national competition after winning gold at the South East regionals in November. He travelled to Bath University to take part in the biathlon, where he finished third in the first event, the 1,000-metre run.

Four hours later he competed in the 100-metre freestyle swim, taking first place. Dan finished fifth overall at the championship.

Dramatic conclusion

CHILDREN from primary schools in the district have enjoyed a special performance of Dover Grammar School for Boys' show of The Boy Who Fell Into a Book.
Vale View, Charlton and St Martin's

primary pupils attended the final showing of the Alan Ayckbourn play at the Roundhouse Theatre in Dover

Pupils from the town's girls' and boys' grammars took to the stage for the final performance and were later thanked by the play's director, boys' grammar drama teacher Mr Thomas.

Their finest hour is brought to life

MORE than 200 children from schools across Kent descended on Dover Museum for the return of its popular Second World War

Pupils and teachers dressed in 1940s gear for the three-day workshop, while students from South Kent College gave their hairstyles a period look.

Activities included a drama workshop on life for children during wartime, and visitors also had the opportunity to explore the museum.

Ration books, air-raid shelters and gas masks were among subjects discussed.

Sue Nicholas, of Dover District Council, said: "Events at Dover museum are a fantastic way to bring history to life and are always popular. The Second World War festival was a great success and pupils had a lot of fun learning about history and getting a real insight into life in the past."

Pupils from Worth Primary School and the Learning Opportunities Centre at Ringwould

BY **MARTJKE COX**

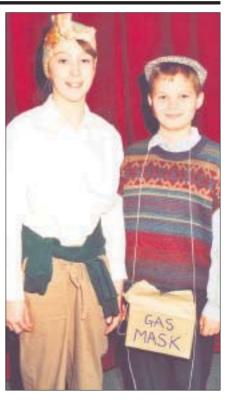
were among those attending the festival. Others came from as far away as Sheppey to take part.

Dover Museum has been commended for its work in providing quality educational visits for youngsters, with the war festival being one of the events recognised.

It was awarded a Learning Outside The Classroom badge through the Government's Out And About package, which provides information to teachers on how to plan and

organise activities that enhance learning.
Cllr Nicholas said: "Pupils visiting the museum can take part in a range of workshops linked to the National Curriculum, and families are also catered for with a range of family days every month.

For more information, visit the website www.dovermuseum.co.uk, phone 01304 241186, or email museumenquiries@ dover.gov.uk.



WE'LL MEET AGAIN: Pupils in 1940s-style clothing during the popular Second World War festival at Dover Museum

SEND your schools news and pictures to davemairs@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk



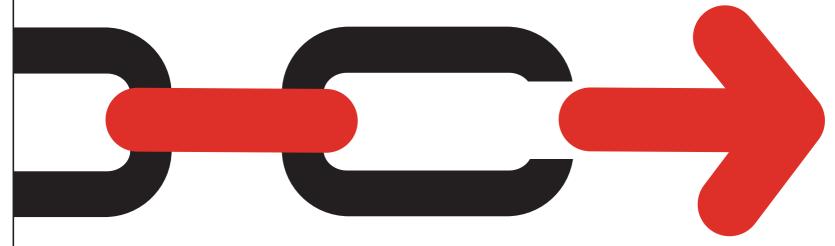
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yourmidweekblogger

This week's contribution is from a Thanet district councillor, but his message is for us all



It's time we raised the flag in celebration of our own culture

THIS year's onslaught of green, black and white on our streets to mark St Patrick's Day is now almost a month behind us.

It is always a great occasion, usually accompanied by a few hangovers, but generally also an air of *bonhomie* and goodwill – and a welcome slice of extra business for struggling pubs and clubs in difficult trading conditions.

This makes me look forward, in anticipation, to England's National Day, St George's Day, which takes place on April 23, just a few short weeks away. April 23rd, I will say it again, because in recent surveys, many, particularly children, could not tell interviewers the date, though most knew the story of the dragon.

Even fewer, I suspect, could tell you much about the real St George, his exploits and career – which meant he spent none of his life here, is the patron saint of at least two other countries and was originally of Darian origin.

The devolution of power across the UK, with

stronger regional voices for Scotland and Wales, has seen a resurgence of interest in English nationalism, shorn, as we are, of the extra level of representation given over to our nearest neighbours.

Celtic and Welsh nationalism is encouraged, but for the English, apparently, a muted voice is all that is required.

We are constantly urged to respect the cultures of others, not frown or tut upon the practice of religions from far shores, which demand their cultural rights on our streets and in our public services.

But if you are English, and wish to promote Christian prayer, you are investigated for upsetting cultural sensitivities. And, of course, if you fly the cross of St George, you are labelled a racist... for celebrating the life and work of a Cappadocian (Turk)!

So I offer you a challenge. Find a way to cel-

ebrate St George's Day that does only good. Have a meal where all the ingredients are

Have a meal where all the ingredients are produced in England, for example. Buy them locally, at the nearest farmers market, or your high-street butcher or greengrocer, keeping the money in your local economy.

Demand the card shops stock St George's greetings cards; stand and cheer your local Scout troops on their St George's Day parade; wear red and white for the day; find a typically gentle English way of reminding all that we are proud of our heritage and our country.

Because it is only when we, the silent majority, do not stand up and make our voices and views known that others can take advantage of our peace and turn a day of national celebration into something less palatable.

Some eight years ago I decided to celebrate St George's Day with English food and drink, with the same small group of friends each year. With every passing year it has become more acceptable, enjoyable and common to hear of these celebrations taking place in typically English understated style and form.

It's time to bring this joy out of the closet and into the open. This April 23rd, cry God for Harry, England and St George, if only in the privacy of your own front room.

GET IN TOUCH... LET US KNOW...

This is your community newspaper and we welcome all contributions. Tell us what you want to see more of in your newspaper and if you want to be the next blogger on this page, submit an article to us of about 500 words. You can contact the editor Dave Mairs, on 01303 817022, or email or write to him at the addresses below.

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your comments and views. Send your submissions to the editor: Dave.Mairs@kosmedia.co.uk

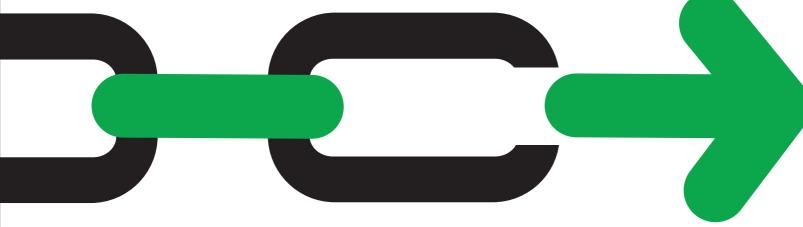
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yourmusic

Credit crunch unplugs Red List Live festival

THIS global recession has to be stopped.

First it brings the world's banks to their knees, and then it goes after the housing market and sends unemployment levels rocketing.

And now the all-consuming credit crunch has hit Kent's music festivals, with Red List Live postponing this summer's inaugural event until 2010. Something needs to be done.

Red List announced the postponement on Wednesday April 1 – prompting festival fans to dismiss the news as some sort of April Fool's BY SIMON ROBINSON

publicity stunt. But a spokesman soon said: "We are deeply saddened to announce that Red List has taken the tough decision to postpone our first festival until 2010.

"This is due to a number of factors, including the high risk of holding an event in the current economic climate, and the impact of increased capacity at established local festivals such as The Hop Farm.

"We took the decision at this early stage,

before final acts were booked, full promotion began, and site work undertaken in order to protect Red List Live's ability to host live events in the future.

"Red List Live still plans to hold a series of smaller events this summer, with some of the bands already booked, before returning as a festival next year as part of our five-year plan.

"All ticket holders have been fully refunded, and as a thank you for their support will be invited, free of charge to one of our upcoming events."

Fellow Kent music festival organisers said

they were shocked by Red List's postponement but said the market had become saturated in recent years.

Lounge on the Farm's Matt Gough said: "It's definitely a more competitive market than it was when we started in 2006. Outdoor events seem to be something of a fashion. But it's healthy competition. Making sure what you do is unique, interesting and fun will see you good."

Sellindge Music Festival's Ben Wells added: "The festival market has become increasingly competitive over the last few years not only in Kent, but throughout the country.

"This fact alone makes the task of selling tickets more and more difficult. Put that saturated level of public choice into the context of a global recession and there's no wonder many events are struggling."

Both festivals played down the effect Red List's cancellation will have on their ticket sales but said they were looking forward to the summer.

LOTF's Matt Gough said: "Ultimately what's happened with Red List Live is a shame as it can have a bit of a negative effect on the Kent festival scene – it certainly doesn't fill people with confidence. But I think there's an excellent offering of live music in the county this summer and I'm sure we're all in for a very enjoyable time."

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TOP TRIO: The Robert Mitchell Trio treated the audience at Quarterhouse

MAKE NO MISTAKE: The four-piece group rock out at Live @ Zebra Bar

KENT UNSIGNED CHART

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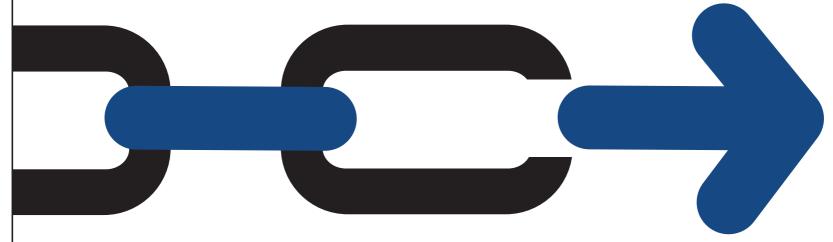
2 The Suspects – He Said (from Margate)

3 Timothy Edwards – Escape The Season (from

4 Freefall – Pack Up Your Things (from Bromley)5 Directions – Golden Light (from Maidstone)

Maidstone)





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LETTERS: Please send your letters in to the editor, Dave Mairs, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford,



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TALK TIME

DEVSIRI HEWAVIDANA

East Kent founder of United Kingdom Friends of Galle in Southern Sri Lanka, a charity which helps victims of the 2004 Asian tsunami



How did the charity start?

I was born in Galle and most of my friends and family are there. When I turned on the TV on Boxing Day 2004 to see those terrible Tsunami images, with passengers at Galle bus station being swept away in the raging waters, I knew at once that I had to do something to help.

Many of my friends and family died in the disaster. For all the millions of pounds donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee, it quickly became apparent that the money was not getting through to those who needed it. Business colleagues urged me to start my own charity to help the victims directly.

What sort of work does the charity carry out in Sri Lanka?

Our first priority was to build houses for tsunami families. Now our focus is on providing scholarships and shoes for poor children and facilities for schools.

Only last summer I handed over a brand-new library and classroom to a rural school where the best classroom was little more than a cowshed.

We now have 167 children, some of them orphans, happily going to school thanks to the 1,000 rupees a month (£5) scholarships given by UKFG donors.

Our aim is to help them until they go to university. Unlike big charities, our donors can see the end-result of their donation, be it a bright child doing well at school or 300 children all proudly walking with new shoes.

Some of our supporters go to Sri Lanka on holiday and meet the children at the same time. It is so rewarding on

YOUR LETTERS

Town's pirate days deserved a mention

I found the article about the offshore pirate radio days of the 1960s interesting.

It was clearly from a press release supporting the newly-released film The Boat That Rocked, a comedy based loosely on Radio Caroline.

The article ignored the significant part that Folkestone played in the offshore pirate radio era of the 1960s.

Several pirates were based on the old Thames estuary forts one of these stations had its registered office in Oxford Terrace, Folkestone, (now demolished) and later at Queen's House Guildhall Street, now used by the county council. Folkestone fishing boat skipper Harry Fetherbee, also known as Tom Pepper, was killed along with disc jockey Barry Hoy and radio engineer Martin Shaw when his boat, David, sank in heavy seas in December 1964.

The inquest recorded an open verdict on the incident.

John Thompson a former Canadian journalist and broadcaster, lived in Bouverie Square, in a property displaced by the new shopping centre. He built or adapted radiotransmitters used on some of the smaller pirate operations.

There were also numerous shareholders and advertisers based in Folkestone.

History seems to have forgotten the 60s fort-based pirate stations like Radio City, Invicta/390 and Radio Essex



Not only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what

And remember, the website is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across your district. We will include the best on these pages too - ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of your favourite local paper before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

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which contributed to the eventual introduction of BBC Radio One, BBC local radio and the commercial radio stations all over the FM dial we now take for granted.

As for me... well, search my name on the internet. Old pirates are everywhere!

Andy Cadier

Residents making a Rype old stink

As a resident of Lydd, my wife and I find it distressing when we walk round The Rype with our dogs and find people are using rubbish bins, which were provided to keep The Rype tidy,

are being used to dispose of their household waste. They are doing this despite being provided their own bins or sacks provided by the council for items such as dirty nappies, chicken carcasses and so on.

I can understand why they do it - so they don't have to put up with the smell, as the refuse is only collected once a fortnight.

The problem is that the dogs can smell it, as well as foxes, and they pull the sacks to pieces spilling out the contents all over The Rype.

There is a refuge tip on the edge of Lydd where every weekend people can depose of items they don't want hanging around too long.

Whoever is responsible, please stop doing it as it's making The Rype an unpleasant place to visit or walk round.

Resident of Lydd

Local solution to housing shortage

Regarding the shortage of affordable housing, it seems to an ordinary layman like me that there is an easy way to get over this problem:

- The Government should stop handing money over willy-nilly to banks and car companies etc.
- Money should be handed over to local authorities to be held in a separate account to fund the restoring of all the empty, rundown properties in their area.
- The empty properties should be requisitioned by the local authority at no cost to them.
- Work can be carried out by the unemployed on restoring these properties so they earn their benefits; there will also be



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worthwhile work for the unemployed construction workers.

- The restored houses are rented back to the the people looking for housing, so lowering the housing shortage and not building on green belt land.
- The owners of the property can have the chance of having their properties back as long as they reimburse council the cost of restoring the property, including all labour costs.
- Tenants can stay in the property at the same rent as long as they keep up payments.

Whitfield

I want to fly the flag for Michael Walsh

I am a member of the Friends of Lydd Airport Group (FLAG).

My personal and political views are my own. I do not rant and rave endlessly about every subject under

the sun.

I do object to the personal round robin' attacks on Michael Walsh. whom I support.

I firmly believe that the MD of Lydd Airport, Air Marshall Clifford Spinks, has complied with every request in this saga, despite the changing of the goalposts.

The BNP raised some valid issues - they are also free to do this. I am proud to live in Lydd and love it.

I am well aware of the employment, environment and wildlife issues where everything is quoted as rare and endangered.

What's next – the rare lesserspotted three-legged limping toad?

Eric Meade

Nothing honourable about MPs' expenses

MPs' expenses are a scandal. Every time you open the newspaper there is yet another sleaze or incompetence headline.

The British taxpayer is now even stumping up for MPs' families to travel first-class and watch porn.

MPs are elected as honourable members. Doesn't seem verv honourable to me.

> Cllr Julie Rook (Tory) North Deal ward

Ashes already a cert to return home to Oz

In response to Harry Captain's letter about Kent County Cricket Club signing the Australian bowler Stuart Clark, if the Aussies had Rolf Harris, Kylie Minogue and Dame Edna in their Test side they would still beat England.

Our players are not up to the job. We need some new young blood players with passion who want to play for their country, and not just there for the money.

I've followed England in Australia and the West Indies, and it was only the wonderful weather that made these trips memorable, not the cricket,

Kent have signed Clark because he is a good player, and Kent need good players. If they had not signed him, another county would have.

JS Smith

Join us in run toward a meningitis vaccine

We would like to ask fitness-minded readers to run for Meningitis UK in this year's Great North Run.

General public entries are now full, but we still have a few places left in our Meningitis Musketeers team for the world's biggest halfmarathon on Sunday, September 20.

Meningitis UK has a single focus: to find a vaccine to eradicate all forms of meningitis.

Tragically, meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia affect thousands of people in the UK every year and kill more children under five than any other infectious disease.

Our Search 4 a Vaccine Campaign aims to raise £7 million to fund research into eradicating meningococcal group B, the most common form of meningitis in the UK.

If you would like to help us achieve our vision, please phone Lauren on 0117 302 6191 for a sponsorship pack.

Lauren Vincent Meninaitis UK



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81 Pegwell Road, Pegwell Village, Ramsgate Tel: 01843 599590 www.pegwellbayhotel.co.uk

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urcompetition

Serving up a tasty Easter dish

TURKEY is not just for Christmas - with its variety of different cuts and uses, it's the perfect meat to enjoy all year round.

So with Easter just round the corner why not serve up a delicious turkey roast for all the family to enjoy?

Turkey is the only meat classed as a superfood and being low in fat as well as high in nutrients, vitamins and protein, it's no wonder why. It looks fantastic on the table, is easy to prepare and is enjoyed by young and old alike.

If you don't fancy cooking a whole bird, there are plenty of other turkey joints to choose from including a boned and rolled breast and an easy to carve crown.

After a wholesome turkey meal it's time to kick back and finish the day with a cup of tea and some delicious Easter cake.

To make cooking your turkey meal even easier, you will need some aluminium foil -BacoFoil is the strongest and most trusted brand, and is available in Extra Thick (ideal for grilling), Classic and Non-Stick varieties (ideal for everyday use) to make cooking and roasting fuss-free.

Additionally, BacoFoil Non-Stick makes your recipes even healthier as its unique coating means there's no need for additional fat or oil,



so it instantly reduces fat content without compromising on taste or appearance. Plus, as food doesn't stick to BacoFoil Non-Stick, the turkey comes out looking perfect.

We have teamed up with British Turkey and BacoFoil this Easter, to offer five of you the chance of winning a great prize. You could get your hands on some fantastic aluminium BacoFoil roasting trays and a roll of the all important extra strong BacoFoil Roasting Foil to help cook the turkey, as well as a beautiful tiered china cake stand and BacoFoil baking paper so you can enjoy an Easter tea in style. Also included are a British Turkey apron, shopping bag and copy of The Little Book of Great British Turkey Recipes.

To have a go at winning the lot all you have to do is simply answer the question below and



send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Easter Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is April 10, 2009.

Question: Which is the only meat classed as a superfood?

For great recipe ideas to serve this Easter go to www.britishturkey.co.uk/recipes.

To check out the entire Baco range and download your 20p off coupon log on to www.baco.co.uk.

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see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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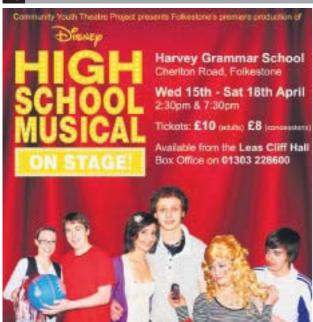
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Forthcoming

Thursday 9th April Sarah Banks in

Saturday 18th April Pajama Party with live music

Events

Cabaret

Rich Phillips









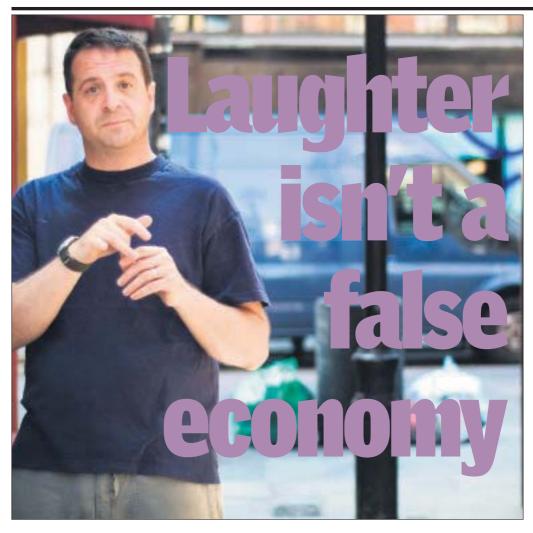


Thursday 23rd April 'St Georges Day Shan Lee Parker

Thursday 30th April

THORLEYTAVERNS

yourleisure



Political activist and funnyman Mark Thomas is touring his latest show, It's the Stupid Economy!, and wants your input to create a People's Manifesto to help the country

AFTER nearly 25 years of making people laugh and think at the same time, Mark Thomas is still making waves in the world of politics.

In his latest show, It's The Stupid Economy!, Thomas sets out to meet the people and gather together collective ideas about how we could make our country better. The comedian aims to create a People's Manifesto, which he will then 'road test' and see if he can make these ideas into reality.

Each audience will be asked to put forward its favourite ideas for dealing with the broken economy and the environment, giving Thomas something to work from as he attempts to bring about real change.

He is no stranger to making things happen, having been instrumental in bringing about a change in inheritance tax laws in 1998. Thomas fronted an investigation for Channel 4's Dispatches which uncovered the ways in which wealthy people had been avoiding inheritance tax by making their homes, art and furniture available for public viewing -

without telling anyone about it. In the following budget, the then-Chancellor Gordon Brown changed the law

Born in South London in 1963, Thomas studied theatre arts at university and performed shows in miners' soup kitchens and fundraising events during the strike. Since taking to the stage as a comic in 1985, he has become arguably one of Britain's most prominent political activists.

With seven series of his own show. The Mark Thomas Comedy Product, on Channel 4 and a regular column in the New Statesman magazine, Thomas has made a career out of exposing injustice and scandal. His investigations have covered such diverse subjects as the use of torture and UK equipment in East Timor, Nestle's change of labelling on baby milk in Africa, Coca Cola and the Immigration and Asylum Bill.

His activities reportedly led to a prominent politician asking civil servants to 'dig the dirt' on Thomas in 2001, but he has continued to investigate and demonstrate about issues such as anti-terror laws, arms dealing and nuclear weapons inspections.

In 2005 he became the Guinness

World Record Holder for the most political demonstrations in 24 hours. Other accolades include a Sony Radio Award, the UN Association Global Human Rights Defender Award, the Kurdish National Congress Medal of Honour and a Time Out Comedy Award. The third series of his television show received a special commendation at Amnesty International's media awards in 1999.

Last year Thomas was made an honorary doctor by Bradford University for his services to peace and his contribution as a comedian, political activist, presenter and investigative journalist, particularly for his campaigning on the ethics of the arms trade.

Mark Thomas will be at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury on Thursday, April 23; the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone on Tuesday, April 28, and the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on Tuesday, June 30.

MARK THOMAS

Various dates. various venues



with

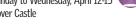
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HISTORICAL FUN

Sunday to Wednesday, April 12-15 **Dover Castle**



ASPIRING Time Lords can experience a real iourney through the ages

Visitors to the castle will be transported back to interesting points in history, where they can encounter some colourful characters and learn the tricks of historical trades. Discover how it felt to become a Roman gladiator, facing up to the prospect of a massive battle in the arena, or learn how medieval knights honed their courtly skills.

Children will have the opportunity to step into the shoes of famous figures by taking part in live theatre. Young visitors can don the outfits of Robin Hood or Admiral Nelson and will be able to get their hands on helmets, shields, armour and weapons.

More entertainment will be provided by the resident jester and master medieval musician, while those who enjoy clowning around can learn some circus skills.

Tickets cost £10/£8 for adults and £6 for children or £25 for families.

For more information call 01304 211067 or visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/dovercastle.



EASTER ACTIVITIES

Friday to Monday, April 10-13

Walmer Castle and Gardens

TRADITIONAL Easter fun is on offer at Walmer Castle this weekend with lots to entertain the family.

From 10am to 5pm each day, young visitors are invited to take part in a special Easter trail, which requires them to hop, skip and jump around the grounds to hunt for hidden clues. Those who successfully complete the trail will earn a chocolate treat and quiz sheets are changed every day, with questions to suit different age groups.

Each afternoon storyteller Tony Cooper will work his magic and transport audiences into an enchanted world of fairy tales and folklore. Hear all about the adventures of marvellous



characters such as Queen Silver-Tree and Princess Gold-Tree and get ready to participate too.

Children can burn off their Easter eggs with a run around the castle's gardens and adults can enjoy a stroll

exploring in the beautiful grounds.

Admission costs £6.70/ £5.70 for adults, £3.40 for children and £16.80 for families. For details call 0870 3331183 or see www.englishheritage.org.uk.

BUNNY TRAILS

Saturday, April 11 The Secret Gardens of Sandwich

THE Easter Bunny has paid a visit to the Secret Gardens and left a series of clues for young treasure hunters to

Children can follow the Hunt the Bunny Trail between 11am and 3pm - if they discover where the rabbit is hiding, they will be rewarded with a delicious chocolate prize provided by Chocolate Charing.

The Secret Gardens are the perfect setting for Easter fun and will impress visitors of all ages with their beauty. Created by 19th century architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and his famous gardening partner Gertrude Jekyll, the 3.5 acre gardens feature flower beds, sweeping lawns and tree-lined avenues. The beautifully designed grounds perfectly complement



Lutyens' Grade One listed Georgian manor house.

Admission costs £4.50 for adults, £3 for children and is free for those aged under six.

The garden is open from 10am to 5pm. For more information visit the website at www.the-secretgardens.co.uk or call 01304 619919.

LIVE & LOCAL

Go off the rails when you hunt for the eggs

GET on track for a great day out with

East Kent Railway's special events.
From Good Friday to Easter Monday, the railway in Shepherdswell will be offering a free gift to all fare-paying children, along with entry into the egg hunt. All Day Rover Fares cost £7/£6 for adults, £4 for children, £18 for families of four, free for under-twos, call 01304 832042 or see www.eastkentrailwav.co.uk.

Trail along the cliffs to find yourself a prize

FIND out what Trusty the Hedgehog is up to on the White Cliffs Easter trail.

The fun trail will keep families busy during the holidays and there will be a chocolate prize for every completed sheet. Visitors can take part from the White Cliffs Visitor Centre from 11am to 3.30pm, from Tuesday to Friday. Trail sheets cost £1.50, call 01304 202756 or email whitecliffs@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Put all the pieces back together at museum

TRY your hand at a variety of jigsaws and design your own at Dover Museum.

The Family Day will be at the museum next Wednesday as part of the temporary exhibition Toys and Games.

The workshop is free and open from

10am to 4.30pm. Normal admission rates apply.

For more details, call 01304 201066 or

visit www.dovermuseum.co.uk.

Band aim to make rock **User Friendly at the inn**

HEAR classic rock music at its very best when User Friendly perform in Dover.

More information about the five-piece is at www.userfriendlyband.co.uk. Fans can also buy copies of the band's ninetrack CD from the website.

User Friendly will be playing at the Park Inn in Park Place on Saturday. For more information about the venue, call 01304 203300.

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Robert Mitchell Trio turn on the style. See the leisure channel





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Thurs 23rd April - 7.00pm Doors - Tickets £19.50 (Standing)



Audience's can relive the spirit of the Forties in a wonderful afternoon of Hits from the Blitz, with lots of sing-along tunes that will bring back warm memories. The celebration show pays tribute to the legendary stars of the war years including Vera Lynn, Donald Peers, Gracie Fields and Bing Crosby

улл, Donaid Peers, Gracie Fields and Bing Tuesday 14th April - 2.30pm Tickets £11.00 concessions availabl



THE LEVELLERS PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS
Brighton based folk-punk band, the Levellers, released
Letters from the Underground - in August 2008. Described
as one of the most politically committed and musically
inclisive albums of their career, the band will be playing
tracks from the new album on this tour plus old favorites.
Thursday 23rd April-7:00pm (doors)

Tickets £19.50 (standing)

yourgetaways */

BY **ALISON PURDY**

WHEN I was told we were going for a walk in the island's interior on our first day on the South Pacific island of Tahiti, I imagined a gentle stroll through the lush green jungle that covers much of the island.

I hadn't imagined that a couple of hours later I would be waist-deep in gushing water dressed in a wet suit with a harness strapped round me, scrambling up a ravine.

Like most people, my image of Tahiti and her 118 islands scattered over five archipelagos in the South Pacific was of sun-soaked shores lined with bamboo bungalows perched on stilts

There's more to Tahiti's many islands

over turquoise-blue sea. I expected the sort of destination that mainly attracts honeymooners drawn to the island by its romantic isolation.

That is certainly on offer. However, as my day spent clambering up a volcanic lava-tube and hoisting myself up waterfalls proved, there is far more to the islands.

I had never been canyoning before and the experience was both terrifying and exhilarating. When I did manage to look up from where I was putting my feet, I was stunned by the incredible beauty that surrounded me.

Green mountains densely covered in what looked like large broccoli heads sloped up to

the sky. Below, the land dropped down dramatically to the sea.

In an effort to promote Tahiti's unique cultural identity, the Radisson Plaza Resort Hotel in the bustling capital city Papeete, has its own full-time 'cultural animator' who puts on daily demonstrations of traditional dance and crafts as an introduction to Tahitian culture.

The day after our canyoning adventure, we boarded a sea catamaran for the half hour trip from Tahiti to the even greener island of Moorea. The island's Sofitel beach resort does live up to the honeymoon brochure billing with individual bungalows all either standing on

stilts over the water or lining the beach front with the most breathtaking ocean views.

Our next stop was the geographicallyunusual island of Rangiroa – which consists of a string of coral encircling a turquoise lagoon and is one of the world's most popular diving destinations and famous for the black pearl.

Tahiti and her collection of islands may be the epitome of the South Seas holiday hideaway – but those keen to do more than lie on the beach enjoy a fantastic choice of leisure options, from scuba diving to hiking in the mountains and searching for that elusive and perfect black pearl.





FACT FILE: TAHITI

Time difference	-11 hours (GMT)
Language	French
Largest city	Papeete
Population	178,130
Currency Pacific Franc	(approx 130 to £1)
Religion	Christian
Climate	Tropical

Travel details

Alison Purdy flew to Papeete with British Airways and Air Tahiti Nui via New York and LA and she was a guest of Radisson Plaza Resort, Tahiti, Sofitel Moorea Beach Resort, Moorea and Raira Lagon, Rangiroa.

Operator Turquoise Holidays offers a 10-night package to Tahiti from £2,295 (two sharing), including Virgin flights ex-Heathrow to Papeete with Virgin and Air Tahiti Nui (via LA), three nights at Radisson Plaza Tahiti (room-only), four nights at Sofitel Moorea (room only), three nights at Relais de Josephine (half-board), domestic flights, transfers.

Leisure activities include a day's canyoning bookable through Mato-Nui Excursions, with picnic, £73; Moorea Hiking is booked directly through Tohie'a Excursions; hike to pass of the three pine trees, with picnic, £43; snorkelling at Blue Lagoon on Rangiroa, £44.

Turquoise Holidays reservations: 01494 678 400 and www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk.

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- Protect your pension for the future
- Recession takes divorcees back to court
- Don't let the credit crunch be taxing
- Taking control of your debts and loans

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Don't let debt take control. Get the help you need with loans and the advice to put your finances on the road to recovery to ride out the recession

Essential guide to where you can save

- St George's Chevrolet in Margate is offering free three-year's servicing extended AA roadside membership with every new Chevrolet purchased
- Bourne Road Garage in Crayford is offering free car mats with all Mazda purchases new and used
- GC Stevens & Son garden machinery and Woodstoves store in Sittingbourne is offering 10 per cent off all garden machinery
- Oliver Carpets in Ramsgate and Herne Bay is offering 15 per cent off when you spend more than £600
- Spand Motors in Hythe is offering 10 per cent off MOTs when pre-booked
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering complimentary day pass for the Leisure Club
- Aylesford Self Storage in Aylesford is offering free man and a van for clients renting storage for longer than three months
- County Garage in Herne Bay is offering 15 per cent off any Ford accessories. Includes car mats, mudflaps, boot protectors, scuff plates, alloy wheels, roof bars, chrome tailpipe finisher, dog guards, roof boxes, parking sensors
- Owlers Nook in Broadstairs is offering a 25 per cent discount on a second matching size 2008 christmas fragrance when you purchase any 2009 yankee candle at full price
- Maidstone Kia Motors in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories

To get these offers go to: www.vouchersforkent.co.uk terms and conditions apply to all offers

Business health is your wealth

FOR most our us, our personal prosperity depends on working for a successful employer.

When the business we work for gets into trouble, the employees start to feel the pain.

Redundancies, cutbacks, longer working hours, and pay cuts are becoming commonplace issues in workplaces across the county.

HENDERSON

GARADOR

That's why we have produced this Money Matters guide aimed at offering some timely advice to businesses fighting their way through the recession.

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Be prepared, it will be to your credit

By TONY PATEY

EXPERTS are predicting that more than 40,000 companies will be declared insolvent during 2009 – a rise of 35 per cent in last year, and 62 per cent higher than in 2007.

To help ensure your firm doesn't become one of the victims, national insurance broker Bluefin Insurance Services, which has offices in Gravesend, Maidstone and Tonbridge, has drawn up a list of protection tips for recession-battered firms.

Peter Castle, executive director, pinpointed, for example, money owed as a crucial factor that could affect cash flow.

"Money owed may represent as much as 40 per cent of a company's actual assets.
"What would happen to your business if a

major supplier or creditor went under? As insolvencies climb, having adequate credit insurance could mean the difference between

your business surviving or failing."
His six top tips to keep one step ahead of the increased dangers facing businesses in

• Take a long-term view over redundancies. Cutting too much from your skills base may create irreversible workload pressures.

SAVINGS



POCKET WATCH: Take appropriate steps to see your business survive economic downturn

- Ensure your business employs best practice in employment matters. Recent rises in statutory redundancy pay rates mean layoffs are more expensive than ever.
- Take care when changing your insurance cover, and do so only if you are sure it will not compromise your ability to win new business. Many organisations, particularly in the public sector, have strict insurance requirements included in their supplier contracts.
- · Be realistic about any insurance premium savings obtainable from changes to your cover. Remember that legal and regulatory risk exposure does not recede in a recession.
- · Don't give staff a reason to defect to rivals by cutting back on training and risk management. Dissatisfied staff are more likely to try to commit fraud, which is on the rise as the economy worsens.
- Credit insurance can provide vital protection from the potentially terminal disruption of bad debt and late payment. Make sure you have adequate cover.

Mr Castle said: "With professional advice, awareness of the risks ahead and perhaps just a little bit of luck, well-prepared businesses have every chance of surviving the

Your guide to get through the recession

A NEW guide to help businesses in Kent find their way through the economic crisis has been published by the South East England Development Agency (Seeda).

It's called Open for Business - A Guide to Business Support in the South East and it offers businesses a simple map to what is on offer through Seeda and its regional partners.

Seeda said it is working with Jobcentre Plus, the Learning and Skills Council and the Government's Real Help for Businesses Now scheme to provide help in areas from accessing finance through to

Many of these initiatives are available through Business Link, the Seeda-funded business support service, which also offers free business 'health

Jeff Alexander, Seeda's executive director for global competitiveness, said: "We are now focusing our efforts on helping South East businesses through these extremely challenging times.

"This package of measures can make a real difference, and thousands of businesses have already taken

"I would strongly urge any business feeling the effects of the downturn to get in touch with Business Link to see what help is available

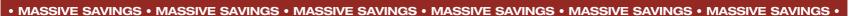
For further information, Business Link is on 0845 6009006.

For copies of the Open for Business booklet, send an e-mail detailing the number of copies required and recipient address to pressoffice@seeda.co.uk.

Seeda is a government-funded agency responsible for the sustainable economic development and regeneration of the South East

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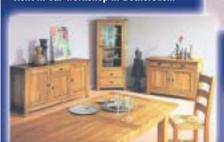
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Ready for the new employment law?



Solicitor Nadia Omar offers this checklist for recession-hit firms who will also be facing new employment law rules coming in early in April

The New ACAS Code of Practice

The Employment Act 2008 will repeal the controversial statutory dispute resolution procedures.

It will be replaced by the new ACAS Code of Practice on disciplinary and grievance procedures.

This is expected to reduce the regulatory burden for employers and provide greater flexibility for managing workplace disputes.

The code only applies to disciplinary and grievance matters and does not apply to redundancy dismissals.

Employers are encouraged to resolve disputes informally and consider the use of mediation.

Employers should carry out the disciplinary and grievance process without delay and ensure all matters are fully

Failure to follow the disciplinary procedure will no longer render a dismissal automatically unfair and employers will not be penalised for technical breaches of the code.

Employers should beware: grievances have been extended to cover all concerns, problems or complaints, and employees no longer need to raise a grievance and wait 28 days prior to issuing a claim.

Tribunals will have the power to increase or decrease an award by 25 per cent for an unreasonable failure to comply with the code.

Trade union membership rules

The implementation of section 19 of the act will entitle a trade union to exclude or expel members who belong to a political party such as the BNP.

To safeguard individuals from arbitrary abuse, union rules must allow it, a fair procedure must be followed and it must not result in the loss of an individual's livelihood or other "exceptional hardship".

The low number of claims that are lodged

against unions for wrongful expulsion suggests that this amendment is unlikely to have much practical effect.

The Employment Tribunals (Constitution and Rules of Procedure) (Amendment) **Regulations 2008**

The regulations remove a judge's discretion not to issue a default judgment if a response is not filed.

This makes it essential for respondents to file a response within the 28-day time limit. Failure to do so will bar the respondent from submitting a defence and may result in the claim being determined without a hearing.

The rules relating to the withdrawal and dismissal of claims have been clarified.

If a claim has been withdrawn,

respondents should apply to have the claim dismissed within 28 days. This will bar a claimant from re-lodging the claim.

Furthermore, proceedings which have been withdrawn and settled through ACAS will be automatically dismissed by the tribunal. This will avoid the need to make a separate dismissal application.

New rules on electronic communication will assist parties relying on evidence by disabled witnesses or those abroad who are unable to attend the hearing.

Employment Tribunals Act 1996 (Tribunal Composition) Order 2009

This will enable cases of unpaid holiday pay to be heard by an employment judge sitting alone.

Claims are usually heard by an employment judge and two lay members.

This order should result in such cases being dealt with faster and more efficiently.

 Nadia Omar is a solicitor in the employment department at law firm Thomson Snell & Passmore, which has offices in Tunbridge Wells

Taxman will be getting tough

KENT companies could soon find they're getting unexpected visits from the taxman as HM Revenue and Customs picks up tough new powers to enter business premises.

Steve Carpenter, manager at Maidstonebased DSH Chartered accountants and business advisors, warned: "From April 1, HMRC will have a new code of powers and penalties that will make it easier for them to obtain information and, if irregularities are found, to match a penalty to the seriousness of the mistake or omission."

The powers being given to HMRC, which aim to identify situations where there is a greater risk of mistakes being made in the completion of tax returns, will enable officers to:

 Obtain documents from a business at any time, even if a return has yet to be filed.



ADVICE: Steve Carpenter

- Request information from third parties, such as banks.
- Enter business premises to inspect the premises, business assets and documents.

Mr Carpenter continued: "Although genuine mistakes will not incur a charge, penalties will be charged as a percentage of any additional tax due and are banded depending upon circumstances.

"For example, if the mistake arises because you failed to take reasonable care in completing your tax return, the penalty will be up to 30 per cent, but if it is a deliberate understatement that you attempt to conceal, the penalty could be up to 100 per cent.

"The concept of 'taking reasonable care' is key to the value of the penalty and will vary from

taxpayer to taxpayer.

"A large company with its own accounts department will be expected to have a higher standard of accuracy in its record keeping than an individual, but both must keep adequate records to enable them to complete the required returns and to spot a significant error.
"The processes

"The processes are becoming more structured and so, to avoid penalties in the future, it is important to ensure your records are adequate and to seek advice for your particular situation."

By PAM LOCH and ANDREW BAYJOU

EMPLOYERS need to brace themselves now for more employment law changes.

Some changes will have an impact on how businesses have to manage their employees, while others will result in a greater financial burden on businesses.

On April 6 the Employment Act 2008 abolishes the much-criticised statutory disciplinary, dismissal and grievance procedures, and businesses will be required to comply with the new ACAS Code of Practice.

The code will not be legally binding but it will be regarded as best practice and it will be used to determine whether a fair procedure has been followed.

Defending an employment claim will become easier, though Employment Tribunals will no longer be compelled to decide that a dismissal was automatically unfair if the employer failed to follow one part of the old procedure.

Interestingly the code will not apply to all dismissals. For example it won't apply to redundancies.

There are also complex transitional provisions and employers should exercise caution and take early advice as a failure to follow the code could result in an employment tribunal increasing an award of compensation by up to 25 per cent.

Aside from the demise of the statutory procedures, other changes impacting on businesses from April 6 include increases in:

- Statutory Sick Pay to £79.15 a week
 Statutory Maternity Paternity as
- Statutory Maternity, Paternity and Adoption Pay to £123.06 a week.

These increases are in line with the annual changes the Government announces in these benefits and in certain cases the payments can be recovered from the Government. Rumours abound that statutory redundancy pay may be increased from the present cap of £350 a week – but these remain rumours at present.

Aside from those benefits increasing, holiday entitlement is also increasing. From April 1 the



Businesses prepare for the tide of change

minimum paid holiday for workers increased to 5.6 weeks or 28 days each year. This should be pro-rated for part-time workers.

For businesses already offering workers 28 days including bank holidays there is no change.

For those that don't offer this at the moment though, they should review their terms and conditions to ensure 28 days holiday is the minimum entitlement.

April also sees the extension of the right to request flexible working to parents of children up to 16 years of age being introduced.

Businesses should ensure that their employment policies and procedures reflect this new right. Although it does not give a right to flexible working, businesses should prepare themselves for an increase in requests to work flexibly from employees with children

over six years of age

From April 6, a failure to pay the national minimum wage to workers could result in a criminal penalty and a claim for underpayment of arrears plus a financial penalty.

HM Revenue and Customs will have compliance officers with additional inspection powers to search, seize and remove documents.

National minimum wage offences will carry criminal penalties ranging from £100 to £5,000.

Some of these changes could have a negative impact on businesses and increase their costs at an already difficult time. However the abolition of the statutory procedures should be a very positive step for businesses going forward.

• Pam Loch and Andrew Bayjou of employment law firm Loch Associates.

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Renting or buying? Move your business into the right property

BY TONY PATEY

MANY firms battling the recession are thinking of moving – but a commercial property is a major undertaking not to be taken lightly as it can affect a company's growth for a long time.

Experts say there are as many opinions regarding buying or renting commercial properties as there are commercial properties - so before you decide which way to jump, your business should take into account its own strengths, weaknesses and future

What suits others won't necessarily suit you. Your premises may turn out to be your business's largest fixed asset, which makes your choice of whether to rent or buy property an important one.

There are many reasons for renting, including:

- Saving capital outlayFlexibility of location
- Savings on maintenance and other costs. As a rule of thumb, renting is a good option for new businesses as it cuts down on the capital outlay needed and potentially saves having to borrow as much capital from other

If you have a low cash flow and prefer to keep your property costs flexible, then renting may be the best option as it releases more money to invest in equipment, stock and employees' salaries.

Renting also enables your business the flexibility to relocate at relatively short notice should you need to expand or follow business trends.

The responsibility for maintenance, fixtures and security also rest with the owner of the property, taking away the uncertainty of these costs and helping you to budget better.

One downside of renting is the possibility of future rent rises, so it is important to know how and when the rent will be reviewed, prior to signing the lease.

The main advantages of buying are:

- Owning an assetFlexibility of the space to suit the business
- Tax advantages

In the long term a property that has been purchased with a commercial mortgage has the potential to increase in value, which strengthens your assets.



EASY?: If you have a low cash flow and prefer to keep your property costs flexible, then renting may be the best option

A mortgage is usually the highest fixed cost of any business, so if you are a company with a good cash flow and relatively low fixed costs then purchasing a property may well be right for you.

When you own your commercial property you can develop the space as you require with the possibility of subletting any unused room, giving your business extra income.

Generally mortgage repayments are at similar levels to rental payments, and although mortgage interest rates may increase on a commercial mortgage these are tax-deductible.

When you own a property the possibility of large rent increases is removed, which enables you to budget better and provides greater security.

One of the downsides of buying is you'll need to come up with a large deposit, and in the initial stages of any business this money could be put to other more immediate business uses

It also becomes more difficult to relocate your business should circumstances change.

Getting out of a rental agreement is far easier and usually a lot quicker than selling premises or re-letting.





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Where there's a will there's a better way

WE can always be sure of two things – recession or no recession – and that's taxes and the Grim Reaper.

And in a time of economic turmoil you don't want your family having to cope with your tangled estate if you drop off the twig and don't leave a will.

Those of us who have come across the chaos which can happen when someone dies intestate invariably have some awful tales to tell of 'what went to whom' – and why.

Intestacy

With intestacy rules having changed recently, the picture is likely to become even more confusing, says Chatham-based law firm Stephens & Son.

Although people who inherit under the rules have not changed, the amounts involved have.

If you are married with children, the first £250,000 of your estate will now go to your surviving spouse, with the rest divided among your children.

However, the picture gets much more complex if you don't have a spouse or civil partner, or children – as surviving parents and siblings are then brought into the equation.

Ultimately, half-brothers and sisters and cousins can fall into the frame if there is no closer next of kin.

Stephens solicitor Caroline Brooks-Johnson

BY TONY PATEY

said: "Too many people still think that it doesn't matter to them what happens to their estate once they are dead and gone.
"In reality, it can be a costly and time-con-

"In reality, it can be a costly and time-consuming process for surviving relatives to deal with intestacy and all too often it leads to family disputes and bitter arguments.

"Making a will and keeping it up-to-date is the only sure-fire way of ensuring your legacy is left to those whom you want to inherit. "Long-lost cousins that you fell out with

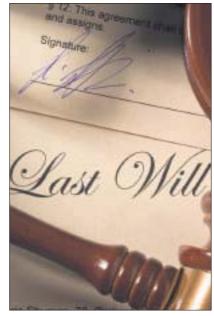
more than 20 years ago often emerge from the woodwork when there's no will to be found.

"If you die without a valid will your estate will be administered in accordance with the intestacy rules.

"This is a statutory 'pecking order' which dictates who gets what from your estate and who is entitled to administer that estate.

"By their very nature the intestacy rules must be general and it therefore stands to reason that they will not be suitable for everyone."

Wills can be used to encompass not only who you would like to administer your estate upon your death and to list your beneficiaries, but also to appoint guardians of children under 18, make personal gifts (of jewellery, for example), set out your funeral wishes, incorporate tax saving measures and deal with a whole host of business and family matters.



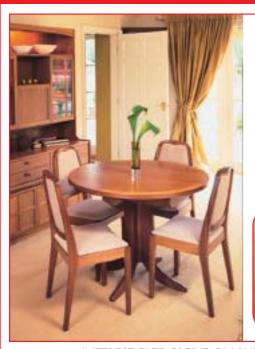
BLACK AND WHITE: Making a will and keeping it up-to-date is the only way of ensuring your legacy is left to who you want

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Keep things sweet and safe at work

By **Tony Patey**

IN recession business can't afford to trip up – literally.

So Canterbury chocolate shop, Madame Oiseau, has teamed up with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to showcase good practice as part of an anti-slips, trips and

falls campaign.

Kent's HSE principal inspector, Mike Walters, said the food manufacturing sector is one of the high risk areas of work.

The new Shattered Lives campaign aims

to cut the number of slips, trips and falls in the workplace. Last year in Kent, 1,107 people suffered an injury because of these at

Madame Oiseau has a flawless health and safety record since setting up shop in 2005. To protect staff, the shop takes simple measures to clear up any spills immediately and keeps work areas clean and tidy.

The shop is a member of Produced in Kent, an organisation promoting local businesses and raising awareness of local food produce available to Kent's residents.

Mr Walters said: "It is good to see that a small business has put in place simple measures to help pre-

"Workers at Madame Oiseau have adopted the 'see it, sort it' approach. If someone sees a spillage on the floor, they clear it up.

vent this type of accident.



HEALTH AND SAFETY: Madame Oiseau has teamed up with the Health and Safety Executive to promote safety at work; and (below) chocolates from the shop

"This is a common-sense approach to a serious health and safety issue.

Sandrine May, owner of Madame Oiseau, said: "We are pleased to support this HSE campaign to encourage workplace safety.

"We are proud of our health and safety record and wish for other small businesses like ours to take note of the statistics and advice to ensure their staff are also safe at

Fatalities and serious injuries arising from slips, trips and fall incidents cost the South East around £78,615,000 last year.

Three people died and 1,830 suffered major injury as a result of a slip, trip or fall from height in workplaces in the

region last year.

A further 3,473 sustained injuries that kept them off work for three days or more.









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Keep good credit in tough times with these top tips

WITH the economy in decline, businesses should be concentrating on getting back to basics and revisiting well known and established ways of doing business successfully and economically.

Follow these top tips to help your business through the current challenges and make them standard practice in future:

Terms and conditions of business

- Review your existing terms and conditions to ensure your business is adequately protected, alternatively put fresh terms and condi-
- Ensure the 'battle of the forms' is won, impose your terms and conditions at each stage of the contract formation process, especially when providing samples and quotes.

 • In the event that delivered goods are not
- paid for, ensure they remain your property by including a 'retention of title' clause within your terms and conditions.
- Agree to the terms of payment before orders are placed, including both the time for payment and the right to charge for interest in the event of late or non payment. You have the option to charge interest for late payment of invoices either under the terms of the contract or under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998.
- · Effective terms and conditions could save rour business from becoming engaged in costly litigation.

By KERRY POOLE and **MARIE THERESE**

Receiving payment on time

- Issue clear and accurate invoices on time and always follow them up.Offer as many methods of payment as you
- · Send letters at predetermined intervals which ask for written confirmation of satisfactory delivery of the goods/services, indicate the amount outstanding, and demand payment in accordance with your terms.
- If you state that you will be instructing solicitors if payment is not received, make sure you do so and promptly. Your credibility is key to you getting paid.

 • Record the date and outcome of all contact
- made with the debtor.
- Be proactive and chase late payments, late payments and bad debts lead to liquidity and cash-flow problems, and may even force a busi-

ness into insolvency. Good credit control

- Know your debtor do credit checks, stick to credit limits and monitor the behaviour of
- · If you are having difficulty in recovering what is owed to you, seek assistance quickly.
- When dealing with outstanding payments decide whether it is worth a fight.
- Consider your customer and, if they are key to your business, approach it diplomatically.
 - Listen to your debtor and, if there is a com-

- If you decide to instruct debt collectors ensure you make checks before using an agency.
- Find out what methods the agency uses Maintaining business relationships and a good reputation are as important to your business as getting paid. Remember that unlawful methods such as harassment could lead to you being liable and can constitute a criminal offence.
- · Avoid the last resort. Explain what steps you intend to take and try to reach an agreement. Recovery without legal proceedings is invariably the most desirable option
- Always try to have a meaningful dialogue with your customer to find out why the debt has not been paid. If possible, consider offering instalments as a payment option. If you have a good system for dealing with debtors, paying someone else to collect your debts will hopefully be a rarely used last resort.
- · Managing credit and cash flow in tougher economic conditions is as important, if not more, as obtaining sales.
- · Make sure you take the time to deal with this critical issue.
- · Lastly, make sure the payment terms you agree with your suppliers match, as far as possible, your own cash-flow forecasts. If your suppliers are reducing the credit period available to you then you will need to try to do the same with your customers.
- Kerry Poole and Marie Therese, are solicitors in the corporate and commercial department at Thomson Snell & Passmore which has offices in Tunbridge Wells and Greenhithe.

To see this clip, search 'driving habits' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Julie Maddocks looks at how changing your driving habits could have a big effect on your pocket at the petrol pump

Essential guide to where you can save

- H&H Flooring in Deal is offering an extra 10 per cent off all carpets
- Avalone Flooring Ltd in Strood is offering 10 per cent off decorative flooring
- Avinco Limited aerial and satellite store in Ramsgate is offering 15 per cent off aerial installation
- GC Stevens & Son, garden machinery and woodstoves store in Sittingbourne is offering £10 off Honda mower servicing and £20 off Honda and Husqvama ride-on

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0 0 0 m



Julie Maddocks discovers how charity shops let you make a fashion statement and save cash

Essential guide to where you can save

- Living Out log cabin store in Chestfield, Maidstone is offering 15 per cent off plus free delivery on all DIY log cabins
- County Garage Motors in Herne Bay is offering free protection pack worth up to £400. Free full tank of fuel, free Gard X Paint and interior protection, free front and rear mats, on all new or used vehicles
- Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £50 off skin lifting and tightening lines and wrinkle treatments. Wrinkle reduction (b/tox)
- Baileys Nissan in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all servicing

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Drivers weigh poor savings returns against cutting bills

kudos to be had. The Government is using escalating road tax or VED (vehicle excise duty) to drive people into smaller and cleaner

A new scale of zero to £405/year came into

force on April 1 (see later story) and is set to

become tougher. By 2010, gas guzzling limos

or 4x4s may face £950 road tax in the first

year, although anyone spending £50-100,000

on a car is unlikely to be put off by such a pal-

BY STEVE LOADER

WITH savings accounts currently delivering such poor interest, many people see trading in a 'gas guzzler' for a cheaper and more economical model as a better return on their



cars too.

try sum.

TREND: Government road tax as well as fuel costs is powering the downsizing trend favouring small cars like the lighter and greener Mazda2 supermini

sneaking below the 100g/km CO2 emissions mark and into band-A.

Most manufacturers also now have an 'Eco' sub-branding for their lowest emission models — Vauxhall uses the ecoFLEX subbranding.

Brilliant as they are, 'eco' models often cost more since they have diesel engines and special 'green' features that do not yet deliver the economy of scale savings available to makers across the whole model range.

What is more, saving road tax is not such a great incentive when many conventional superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year anyway; over three years with an eco model, saving £105 is irrelevant if you spend far more on buying that car in the first place and are then putting expensive diesel in the tank.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don't dismiss petrol power; that fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on diesel equivalents.

Diesel engines also tend to be heavier, so you could find yourself going through tyres more quickly.

Don't ignore alternative power options either, such as liquid petroleum gas (LPG) or hybrids.

Finally, just look again at what you have to part-exchange; you might have lost a packet in depreciation on that big 4x4, but work out what it will cost you to run it for the next three years – it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.

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- (52) NISSAN ALMERA 1.8 E AUTO, 3 Dr, Met.Blue, PAS, C/Locking, E/F/Windows, Alloys, 2 Owners, 30500 Miles, S/History, Ins. Gp 7 PRIVATE CUSTOMER SALE.....£3495
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BY STEVE LOADER

SAVE money by downsizing and running a cheaper car and then gain even more by smarter driving and journey planning.

For a start, you can save pounds and wear and tear on the car by avoiding short journeys and perhaps get fitter too by walking or cycling; a cold engine can produce 60 per cent more pollution than a warm one and a car used for many short journeys needs extra servicing and wears its engine out faster.

More fuel is wasted and higher emissions are also generated from a cold start – traffic on UK roads contributes 26 per cent of the nation's total carbon dioxide emissions (CO2).

However, if your car journey is a must then follow these tips from the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) and RAC Foundation motoring watchdogs:

• Plan your route – forethought can save wear and tear on car and driver. Try to take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. If you have to commute, think about car sharing, Park and Ride' bus schemes or other public transport.

 Have your vehicle serviced regularly to maintain efficiency and economy. Under-serviced engines reduce fuel economy by ten per cent or more. Catalytic converters are environmentally friendly, but only when properly maintained.

• Check tyres – under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Anybody who has cycled on 'flabby' tyres knows what extra effort is involved, so check pressures weekly.

• Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Try to 'feather' the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style will save fuel, but never coast in neutral or with clutch pedal depressed to save fuel – vehicle control must not be compromised.



Clever driving is key to cheaper motoring

• Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gearchanges at modest engine speeds can cut fuel consumption by up to 15 per cent.

• Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use. Driving with windows open also mars aerodynamics and lowers fuel economy. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and avoid heavy accessories and wide tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning lowers fuel economy so use the fan and vents unassisted as much as possible.

• Buy green fuel and use less. Seek out low sulphur diesel (City diesel) or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics) supplies locally. Consider a conversion to LPG (liquid petroleum gas), which is half the price of petrol, generates almost as much power and emits much less CO2.

• Use 'accelerator sense'. Do you go straight from accelerator to the brake? You save fuel if you plan ahead and, rather than have to brake as you hit traffic, gently let the speed of the vehicle bring you to a halt as you join a queue. There is no point in rushing and then having • Reverse in when you park. When you start off again, the engine is cold and inefficient. If you can drive away smoothly without having to reverse, you save fuel and have better visibility.

to brake suddenly.

• Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and carry more weight than is necessary?

• If you are stuck in a jam then you are doing zero mpg – turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at:

http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community.





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Is diesel demand peaking?

By **STEVE LOADER**

DIESEL has become the fuel of choice recently as UK buyers seek to cut costs, but do the sums still add up?

Its original appeal was the cheapness of the fuel, greater mpg and the better low down pulling power of the engines and their ability to meet tighter emissions legislation.

However, diesel now commands an increasing premium against petrol and there are doubts whether the engines can continue to meet ever tougher emission laws.

Meanwhile, petrol power has hit back with smaller, lighter and cleaner engines with turbocharging for extra flexibility, while there are other options emerging to save money and the planet:

• HYBRID

These partner conventional engines with electric units, but two powerplants and power supplies — fuel tank plus batteries — mean extra weight, while production complexity raises prices so buyers must cover many miles to balance this. Motorway mpg is also hardly better than a standard car.

• LPC

Liquid petroleum gas (LPG) seems an excellent alternative fuel due to lower duty and emissions and cheaper car tax.

However, the calorific value and consequent mpg is slightly lower than petrol and it will cost at least £1,500 to convert an existing vehicle via an approved LPG Association operator

There are many more LPG filling points

across the country than before though – Kent has some 40 LPG sites – and LPG costs about half that of petrol and diesel at the pump, emits about 20 per cent less CO2 than petrol and slightly less than diesel and with fewer NOx and particulates.

• ELECTRIC

These should be cheap to run, but battery technology cannot yet guarantee ranges to

satisfy many would-be owners. There is the worry too that the car's emissions are simply transferred from an exhaust pipe to the chimney of a fossil fuel-burning power station

• BIOFUELS

Fuel derived partly from vegetable matter

appeals since plants absorb CO2 during growth and simply release it again when burned – a virtuous circle. Most road fuels sold in the UK will contain at least five per cent

biofuel by next year anyway, but there is concern that using arable land or forest to grow 'biofuel' plants will strain global food supplies.



TAX TIP: Diesel ecoFLEX versions of the Vauxhall Corsa qualify for the lowest payable road tax (£35) and return more than 60mpg on average

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le va.r. Prices checked locally within a 5 mile radius of the above Vauxhall MasterFit Retailer. †Excluding tyres which come with man varranty, this does not affect your statutory rights. Offers valid until 31st March 2009. ©General Motors UK Limited 2008. (Vaux64017)

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A smoking exhaust can really damage your motoring wealth

By Steve Loader

GOVERNMENT efforts to use road tax to beat drivers into giving up so-called gas guzzlers have met with mixed success.

There can be no doubt that escalating tax or vehicle excise duty (VED) over the past couple of years has helped fuel downsizing, but there was outcry after the March 2008 Budget at 'draconian' rates to be applied to larger cars, especially with the recession looming.

Consequently, Chancellor Alistair Darling

backtracked last November and proposed amended charges from April 1, 2009 to soften the blow at the top end of the market, though the Government says VED will continue to be amended in future to maintain downward force in vehicle sizes and emissions.

They will also continue to be based on CO2 emissions rather than fuel consumption and apply only to cars registered after March 1, 2001; inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year if the engine is 1,549cc or less and then £185 if it is above – something of a bargain for the owners of large older 'gas guzzlers' if they are content to bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas)

conversion or cover relatively few miles.

The new rates are weighted even more in favour of the latest, cleanest and most miserly small cars.

Models emitting 100g/km of CO2 or less like the new Ford Fiesta ECOnetic, for instance, continue to qualify for Band A or zero rating.

The payable steps are: Bands B and C (101-120g/km) - £35 Bands D and E (121-140g/km) - £120 Band F (141-150g/km) - £125 Band G (151-160g/km) - £150 Bands H and I (161-180g/km) - £175 Bands J and K (181-225g/km) - £215 Band L (226-255g/km) - £405 Band M (255g/km) plus) - £405



GREENER IS CHEAPER: All Hyundai i10 city cars (above left) qualify for the lowest road tax band (£35) and also come with a five-year warranty; and the low emissions of Skoda Fabia Greenline (above right) also attract only £35-a-year in road tax bills

To see this clip, search 'recycling'

OVOURKENTTV.CO.UK



Ju red en

Julie Maddocks discovers how recycling can be not only good for the environment – but save you money

Essential guide to where you can save

- KOS is offering Pulsar Kinetic Watch at only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving over 50 per cent on RRP
- A&A Gliderobes in Canterbury is offering up to £100 off
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We take a look at how a school in Maidstone has introduced banking to show pupils how to manage money

Essential guide to where you can save

- KOS is offering a leather organiser hand-bag by Jane Shilton for only £49.99 inc p&p saving £40 off RRP
- Colgate Garage doors in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off some garage doors
- KOS is offering ultra-slim Danish Skagen watches for men and women only £69.99 saving £20 0n the RRP
- Maidstone Kia Motors in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories
- Aquasphere bathrooms store in Swalecliff is offering an accessories pack worth £100 with every new bathroom

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CASH-strapped businesses could be literally pouring money down the drain - by not taking simple steps to turn off the tap of water waste.

Sustainable business expert Envirowise is calling on businesses in the South East to take on board low-cost initiatives to reduce water consumption which it says could help save thousands of pounds every year.

With reports predicting water is set to become an increasingly scarce and expensive resource, and that UK businesses are using enough of it every year to fill 2.6 million Olympic-sized swimming pools, it says local businesses could be pouring money down the drain

By Tony Patey

To make it easy for businesses to introduce water-saving measures, Envirowise has launched a new step-by-step online tool that helps companies identify where and how water is used and treated, the costs involved, and practical ways to reduce and re-use it.

The tool also helps organisations keep control of costs and future proof against rate rises

and supply shortages.

Last year Envirowise ran Rippleffect, a free initiative designed to help businesses tackle water use

Around 500 businesses signed up for the scheme and it is hoped many more will benefit from water savings by using the new tool.

Holly Firmin, South East regional manager, said: "While many of us consider water to be a cheap and endless resource, the reality is that we are using and wasting far too much, and this is placing extra pressure on existing supplies as well as impacting on the bottom line.

"It is crucial that people are aware of the serious and complex issues around water supply and use and we hope our new tool will help businesses address these challenges in the most effective way."

For details about the scheme visit www.envirowise.gov.uk/water.

Envirowise is a government-funded programme which aims to put sustainable use of resources at the top of the UK business agenda.

Since it has helped UK businesses save over £1 billion by helping them reduce their environmental footprints.



By JEREMY GATES

THERE are probably two reasons why the annual pension of around £700,000 awarded to Sir Fred Goodwin, as he sidesteps the wreckage of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), is arousing such fury.

The first is that much of his cash could come from taxpayers, possibly for decades, because RBS pension schemes worldwide already face a near £2 billion deficit. RBS non-contributory pensions are fully guaranteed by the firm.

The second, is that while Goodwin hits the jackpot, some seven million workers in money purchase defined contribution (DC) pensions are seeing their retirement income slashed by the credit crunch, despite years of saving.

Private

Financial advisor Hargreaves Lansdown thinks the average employee saving £150 per month would take 209 years, allowing for investment growth and inflation, to match Sir Fred's pension pot, which RBS accrued for him since 1998. Meanwhile, those in DC schemes have seen their likely pension income slashed 20-25 per cent in the past 18 months.

Over-55s, in particular, feel powerless as markets slide because a full recovery before they retire is unlikely. How long will it take to recoup £50bn worth of share values in London one day this week?

To have any hope of a decent payout, workers must stick with pension saving through thick and thin. The eventual payout might be healthier than they fear – or expect.

Even Sir Fred needed a bit of luck at the end: if RBS had gone bust, he would have got a maximum pension of £27,000 a year. Those who make no private pension arrangements miss out particularly badly, if their employer is willing to pay into a pension on their behalf. Besides the boss's contribution, pensions are helped to grow over the years by tax relief.

Protecting your pension through the tough times

The dwindling number still in the private sector final salary pensions, mostly assume they don't have a problem. In fact, their fund may face a rising deficit, so it might be prudent for them to save more through an AVC (Additional Voluntary Contribution) scheme to boost their eventual pension income.

For others outside final salary schemes, an obvious vehicle for extra saving is a SIPP (Self-Invested Personal Pension), a concept devised in the early 90s. Many self-employed workers use a SIPP as their main pension plan.

Laith Khalaf, pension analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown (HL) says a "Bed and SIPP" enables savers to switch unwanted shares into a SIPP, with generous tax relief on top.

"HL figures suggest there are as many as 10 million private shareholders, many with shares from demutualisations," Khalaf says.

Basic rate payers putting £1,000 worth of shares into the SIPP get an additional £250 in tax relief, while higher rate taxpayers get up to another £250 back from the taxman.

"Markets and asset values move in a cyclical direction and every 10-15 years, something bad happens. In good times, people happily put money away, and in bad times, they don't.

"We should invest on a counter-cyclical basis. The fact is that Government – regardless of party – will soon raise taxes, particularly income tax and National Insurance, to handle vast debts building up, so it is vital to use the tax shelter which pensions provide.

"At the very least, put spare money into a

pension pot, to hold it there as cash until you find an attractive investment. In pensions invested in managed funds, you might step up contributions to buy in at the lower price," Khalaf says.

Malcolm Cuthbert at financial advisor Killik & Co says some savers fatten up SIPPs either by putting in ISA money currently earning a low interest rate, or a lump sum generated by cashing in a poorly performing endowment.

He cites the example of a higher rate taxpayer at 50 moving £8,000 from an ISA into a SIPP who receives £2,000 tax relief immediately, and can claim back £2,000 through his tax return, so a net £6,000 outlay produces an extra £10,000 in the pension.

The average sum held in SIPPs is around £50,000, but Cuthbert says it is important to check each investment inside it to ensure good performance. Switching to a better performing fund might involve no charges.

State

Next, we come to the State pension: those with a full NI contribution record can count on £90.70 per week, and in many cases will collect more. From 2010, the minimum number of years' work required to qualify for a full basic State Pension falls to 30.

For a prediction on your state pension, check with the Department of Work and Pensions at 0845 300 0168 and at www.thepensionservice.gov.uk. Khalaf says people may be tempted to lessen the impact of this downturn

by delaying their pension by two or three years, and living on savings or part-time work in between.

When retirement actually arrives, savers in DC pensions should use the open market option (OMO) to find the most generous annuity, instead of merely accepting the quotation from their pension provider.

Steve Hunt, at Rockingham Retirement, reckons pensioners lose £1.4bn a year by failing to do this. Figures from the Association of British Insurers (ABI) indicate that 169,000 retirees turned down an annuity offered by their pension provider in 2008 and presumably found something better elsewhere, just over a third of the total annuity market.

"Research shows that those approaching retirement can increase their income by more than 20 per cent by shopping around, compared to the default option," Hunt says.

Finally, it is worth remembering that the bleaker prospects might appear in the pension sector, the more likely it is that new products will enter the field.

Next week, Prudential launches its New Income Choice Annuity, available for clients with pension pots of at least £10,000 after tax-free cash has been taken. It will enable savers to select a starting income which can be varied over time.

If Prudential's new product catches on, rivals will respond. As the older population grows, pensioners have a bit more bargaining clout than they realise.



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For poorer and poorer

BY **MELANIE DEN BRINKER**

THERE have been a spate of recent headlines about highly paid people trying to renegotiate socalled 'big money' divorce settlements they can no longer afford as the bonus culture declines.

So it's not surprising divorce lawyers are seeing a marked increase in the number of previously high-earning men seeking to reduce maintenance payments to their ex-wives.

They believe that, having shared in the good times, their ex-spouses should now share in the bad.

Although orders for the payment of ongoing maintenance are variable, orders dividing capital assets have historically not, save in rare and unforeseen circumstances, been variable, even where there is a change in financial cir-

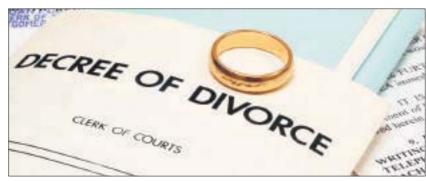
Where does this leave previously wealthy divorced couples whose capital assets were valued and subsequently divided shortly before the credit crunch hit, and who may now be looking at a reduction in the value of some of their assets by as much as 90 per cent?

In many cases this ill fortune will be shared between the parties.

However, often the wife will have received the bulk of the 'copper-bottomed' assets, including the former matrimonial home, while the husband retains a larger percentage of the risk-laden assets such as shares, options or even possible future bonuses.

In such cases, while the wife may be facing a fall in the value of her assets, it may be as nothing to that faced by the ex-husband.

How the recession could see divorce settlements head back to the court room



The result may be that he ends up with significantly less capital than the ex-wife.

For such ex-couples, the outcome of an application made to the Court of Appeal by Bryan Myerson, a city fund manager may have huge

He has asked the Court of Appeal for leave to apply to reopen a divorce settlement finalised in March last year, whereby he was ordered to pay 43 per cent of a total £25.8 million assets to his wife.

She received £9.5m cash, while he retained most of his shares. Since the settlement, the value of his shares has plummeted by 90 per

The result is Mrs Myerson will hold 105 per cent of the couple's assets, while Mr Myerson, who would have to borrow to pay the £2.5m that he still owes, will be half-a-million pounds out of pocket rather than retaining £14.6m, as had been anticipated at the time of the settlement

She opposes the application, with her lawyer predicting that, if allowed, it will open the floodgates to applications by many other men in a similar position.

Indeed, Jim Moore, the so called buy-to-let king' has already announced he will represent himself in an attempt to reopen his divorce settlement on the grounds the fall in property values has made it unaffordable.

Whether or not they are successful remains to be seen, but what is clear is that in these difficult times, divorce will increasingly be seen to be for poorer as well as for richer.

• Melanie den Brinker is a solicitor at leading

Kent solicitors Buss Murton, with offices in Tunbridge Wells, Cranbrook and Dartford.

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Don't let the financial climate be a taxing time for your relationship

CREDIT-crunched couples can cut down their tax burden and ease the stress caused to relationships by the economic slump.

The charity Relate has highlighted financial pressures as causing potential relationship problems – but tax should not be an extra issue.

In fact, couples who work together in planning their tax affairs can save tax and so keep much-needed cash available.

These savings mainly apply to married couples and civil partnerships, to whom special rules apply, but some can also apply to unmarried couples.

The tax savings available depend on making the best use of both partners':

- annual tax allowances;
- lower and basic rate tax bands;
- exemptions on transfers of assets between them, so enabling the best use of tax losses.

Mostly the savings will reduce current liabilities, but there will be cases where refunds of tax from previous years may be claimed.

Make full use of income tax allowances. Interest returns are low at present but if only one spouse is in paid work, putting savings in the name of the other makes use of their personal allowance.

BY **PAUL HODGE**

This tip will remain worthwhile even when interest rates recover if the account-holder does not resume employment.

Where one spouse is the main earner, forming a company or partnership can enable the profits to be shared between both.

Again, this makes use of both personal allowances and, if the main earner expects to have assessable income of more than £43,875 in the year 2009-10, he or she will pay higher rate tax unless some of that can be transferred to the other spouse.

This can be done by:

- employing the spouse and paying him/her a reasonable wage for the work done;
- giving the spouse shares in the company and paying dividends;
- making the spouse a partner in the business.

'Bed and breakfasting', commonly by one spouse selling and the other buying shares whose value has risen, is usually done to reduce future capital gains tax by using annual exemptions. But not all shares will be standing at a loss and many people who have sold shares before they fell to below their original cost will have made taxable gains on those shares.

If their gains are more than the annual exemption, but they have other shares that are showing a loss, bed and breakfasting the loss-making shares can create a loss that

will reduce or
eliminate
the CGT on
g a i n s
already
realised.

If one

spouse is

about to sell an asset and the other has already made capital losses. asset can be transferred to the spouse with the losses before selling, so that those losses reduce the taxable capital gain. A similar arrangement can work if a higher rate taxpayer is about to cash in an insurance policy. Chargeable event gains are liable to higher

> who does not pay higher rate tax, the tax bill can be reduced.

rates but if the policy is first

reduced.
• Paul Hodge is a partner at accountants and business advisors Baker Tilly, which has offices in Bromley and Tunbridge Wells.



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Put yourself ahead of the game when searching for a new job

GETTING a new job these days is tough in the extreme – recent reports say anything up to 60 people are going for jobs which wouldn't even make a tiny blip on the radar in normal economic times.

So when it comes to looking for new jobs it's essential you know a little about the companies you apply to.

That would put you in pole position, at least when it comes to interviews.

By understanding a company you will be able to know more about the kind of work they do, if it suits you, whether you're the right person for the job, what qualities they're looking for in job applicants — and crucially also how you should position yourself in your CV and cover letters.

Using relevant information during the application process will show potential employers you have researched their company, understand them and are keen to work for them specifically.

Susan Yallop, a director at recruitment firm Adecco, has set out some tips on how to find background information on potential employers, helping to make the job-seeking process a lot more targeted and potentially successful. Company websites

Company websites are a great place for you to start your research – nearly every company now has a web page, which will include information about the organisation, what they offer as a business and its aims and ethos.

RY TONY PATFY

This is the best place to start when building up your knowledge as it gives you an overall flavour of the company. Downloading company reports can offer a good insight into the direction the business is moving in; this will offer you strong background knowledge should you be offered an interview.

Get online

The internet is a great place for finding information on a company and its recent news and announcements.

While the company website may offer some information on the company, looking for its presence online with relevant newswires and national and trade publications will give you a more comprehensive impression of what it has done in the past 12 months, the direction the company appears to be moving in and how it is competing in its market.

Social networking

This is not just a way of sharing photos and chatting with friends. A number of companies use social networking for business purposes.

use social networking for business purposes. While some use the sites for a communal place for employees to chat and share information, there are a number of companies who have started to use these sites for recruitment purposes.

Sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter might be just the thing to help you to find information on companies and job openings while staying up to date with specific industries.

From the horse's mouth

While external sources are all useful they don't offer an inside perspective, only news that a company has released or been involved in

If you have a friend or an acquaintance who has either worked for or in some way been involved with a company, they can be extremely valuable

While this information source isn't essential, personal recommendations and incite offer a huge bonus as you can learn about working culture and everyday goings on at any companies that might be of interest.

If you don't ask you don't get

If you are struggling to find out about the company don't be afraid to call the main help desk and ask for company brochures or advice as to where you can find out more.

HR may even be able to supply you with a

HR may even be able to supply you with a more detailed job description.

Competitors

It can be worthwhile researching the companies that compete in the same space as the organisation you are looking to work for.

It will impress the employer if you can demonstrate knowledge of the key players and offer an opinion on the industry as a whole.

Ms Yallop said: "Obviously, companies always try to give the best impression of

Ms Yallop said: "Obviously, companies always try to give the best impression of themselves through various formats but by investigating a number of avenues you will be able to get a much clearer and rounded impression of the image and culture that each company is trying to promote and aspire to."

Essential guide to where you can save

- Blakes Hair & Beauty in Canterbury is offering 30 per cent off all colours with full price cut and blow dry
- Maidstone Kia in Maidstone is offering a free set of mats with any new car purchased before May 31
- KOS is offering all seasons duck duvet, two duvets that button together from only £39.99. Save more than 50 per cent
- Wildlife Heritage Foundation Animal Park in Ashford is offering an amazing day being close to big cats. All day dedicated guide with buffet lunch, tea/coffee for only £99
- Pomphreys Motors in Bapchild, Sittingbourne is offering a car rental deal when you book one day you get the second free
- Robins and Day Motors in Maidstone, Canterbury and Rochester are offering MOTs from £39.99. Service and MOT from £129.99 and seasonal checks from £19.99
- H&H Flooring in Deal is offering free underlay upgrade on all carpets
- KOS is offering big button digital cordless phones just £24.99 save £20
- Canterbury Hyundai in Canterbury is offering £29.95 MOTs while you wait
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BY JEREMY GATES

IF NEW figures detailing our personal borrowings are even vaguely accurate, Gordon Brown isn't alone in convincing himself the best way out of any financial squeeze is to step up the spending.

Professional advice website Unbiased.co.uk says personal loan debt rose by over £1.6 billion to £11.4bn during 2008.

The website nominated March 25 as Debt Freedom Day—and reckons we worked for the first 83 days of the year to earn the money to service interest charges on our debts, despite the fact that credit card debt actually fell by just over £4.9bn during 2008.

"Perhaps it takes an occasion like Debt Freedom Day to illustrate just how deeply in debt we are, and it will hopefully spur people into action to tackle debts," says spokesman David Elms. "It's a daunting task, but with inter-

"It's a daunting task, but with interest rates at a record low, this is the time to make money work hard to ensure any debt is repaid as quickly as possible."

Many will not escape current financial difficulties: accountants KPMG predict more than 150,000 people are likely to enter into an Individidual

Voluntary Arrangement (IVA), be declared bankrupt or enter into a Debt Relief Order (a new option for people with little hope of repaying debts) to be introduced or April 6, 2009.

"Falling house prices, the general downturn and increases in unemployment are starting to have an impact," says Mark Sands, KPMC's director of personal insolvency.

Our personal debt is out of control

"Whilst consumers fight to keep their jobs and homes, for those that lose both there is often little reason for someone with debts and assets not to declare themselves bankrupt."

John Fairhurst at Payplan, a free debt advice and solutions service started in the early 1990s to offer insolvency solutions to public sector workers, says in many cases people fail to realise they are in trouble until it is too late.

"They often go to the wrong place for help," he says. "Typically they fix another loan to consolidate debts, and find themselves in even

deeper difficulties before long."
The average Payplan client has net household income of £1,700 per month, including benefits. They are sitting on £30,000 worth of unsecured debts and after meeting all commitments, face a shortfall of about £650 per month. Around half of Payplan clients who are homeowners have paid the mortgage at some stage by credit card, and they don't tell creditors of their problems for fear of losing their credit card.

Since August, 2008, the 600-strong Payplan team in Grantham, Lincolnshire, has seen a sharp rise of owner/occupiers in trouble.

Unemployment and redundancy have not yet figured largely in the cases it is handling.

DON'T RUN AWAY: Tackle debts, and now is a good time with current interest rates low

Although the group with the most problems is aged 35-45, the sector seeing the fastest rise in problems is older – in the 50-60 bracket.

The average owner-occupier in trouble has a net monthly income of £2,100 and unsecured debts of £41,000, including credit cards, personal loans, and car loans, creating a monthly deficit of about £950.

Fairhurst says they have been hit particularly hard by the clampdown on credit in 2008, and the end of easy remortgaging caused by the plunge in house prices. For many, the escape routes are cut off.

Payplan's initial strategy is to bring the household budget back into balance: creditors are requested to stop adding interest and other charges, if clients agree to pay an affordable monthly sum to each creditor.

About a third of Payplan clients agree to a repayment arrangement, with six out of seven choosing Debt Management Plans (DMPs) and the remainder opting for Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVSs).

Debt Relief Orders is a third, simpler option to reduce the administrative work triggered by the great debt mountain. Fairhurst believes they will be offered to people with debts below £15,000, no assets and minimal income, and little hope of paying anything off.

On payment of a £90 fee, debtors will have debts written off, and will find it extremely difficult to get credit in the future.

Some debt problems are solved informally, without using any of these vehicles. Around five to six per cent of Payplan customers take advice on making contractual repayments and handle their own financial arrangements thereafter.

Essential guide to where you can save

- Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £100 off Elevating TV cabinets
- Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items
- Oliver Carpets in Ramsgate and Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off when you spend more than £250
- Pomphreys Motors in Bapchild, Sittingbourne, is offering a half-price MOT with every service
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering £5 off the carvery lunch on any Bank Holiday Monday
- Living Out log cabin store in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering free installation on all standard range of cabins
- Aylesford Self Storage in Aylesford is offering three months' free storage for a year for all new document storage clients
- County Garage in Herne Bay is offering free health check and free 29 point including wash and vacuum
- Baileys Nissan Motors in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs
- Medway Stoves solid fuel heating store in Medway is offering 15 per cent off all stoves and installations purchased before June 30, 2009
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IN STORE

Entertain yourself for less with spring savings

HMV has a host of new music and film titles on sale this spring.

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Solace is available in an exclusive twodisc set for £12.99, while the new LP by Pet Shop Boys is only £8.99.

Each installment of the popular Disney trilogy Pirates of the Caribbean is £3.99.

While in music new albums by Maroon 5 and Girls Aloud are all less than a fiver. Visit the shop in Folkestone's Bouverie Place or go to www.hmv.co.uk.

Men can look cool this summer with Burton

MEN'S top ten key items for a summer wardrobe are now available at Burton.

And those shopping online could be in with a chance of winning all ten pieces by entering the big prize draw.

Included is a green printed zip-thru hoodie (£28), a blue Marl 'San Francisco' t-shirt (£15) and khaki check utility shorts (£28) a grey check cotton jacket (£40), a mid blue straight denim jeans (£35) and a brown zip record bag (£20).

See www.burton.co.uk for details.

Why not dress for less in New Look beach line?

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A sequin embellished swimsuit with padded bandeau top and drawstring straps is available for £30, or a shimmer stud embellished swimming costume is £20. Those preferring a bikini will find a range of sassy styles with diamante or paisley tops (£16) and bottoms (£10).

See www.newlook.co.uk or go to the store in Biggin Street, Dover, or High

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yourtimeout

YOUR TV REVIEW

BY TOM BETTS

PRIMEVAL ITV1, 6.15pm, Saturday **ROBIN HOOD** BBC One, 7.45pm, Saturday

IT'S very difficult to know what ITV is up to with Primeval, other than copy Doctor Who as much as it possibly can, of course

Each time I've tuned into this programme over the course of the past few series the plot has been almost the same as the last time.

The basic scenario revolves around these basics: lots of running around, time portal or wormhole opens up, big beast of some kind smashes stuff up, more running around, thing is killed or disappears back through portal, everyone breathes a big sigh

of relief and has a nice sit down.

Intersperse that with Hannah
Spearritt, the girl who used to be in S
Club 7 – you know, the really boyishlooking one – appearing as confused as the viewers while spending a lot of time in sports leisurewear.

This doesn't add up to a masterpiece. OK, so it may not try to be anything other than throwaway TV, but sometimes you feel like the writers of this have just given up and opted for the same story each and every week.

While Doctor Who episodes can vary wildly in quality (largely depending on who's penned it), this never rises above banged-together-by-

a-bunch-of-sixth-formers level. The special effects are hardly Jurassic Park, either.

I'm afraid to say the makers of this one have got dinosaur pie all over

Over on BBC One, meanwhile, Robin Hood has returned to our Saturday nights to rob from the rich to give to the poor once again.



WOOD YOU BELIEVE IT? Jonas Armstrong plays the lead role in BBC drama Robin Hood

Mind you, this is another half-hearted effort that has never really taken off and looks like it will crash off our screens next year.

There's something about the lead, Jonas Armstrong, that doesn't really gel. He seems far too young and neither cuts a dash nor could bowl a maiden over.

Looking more like the lost Gallagher brother than a hero of folklore who could lead Sherwood Forest's finest into battle, it shows that if your main man is flawed then it's tough getting the rest to work.

I know that personal hygiene may not have been as high on the agenda as it is now, but a shave and haircut wouldn't go amiss, Robin.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19) RESIST the urge to go on a spending spree. You need to hang on to your cash now. There will be plenty of time to buy what you want soon. If you're having a hard time making ends meet, this would be a good time to return to school. Don't underestimate the importance of diplomacy.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Aquarius 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21) DON'T let friends push you into a decision you'll later regret. You're the type who likes to think things through so rushing into a situation will only create more stress. It's especially important to take your time with a new romance. You could finally

get word about a new job.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Taurus 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23) TENSIONS are mounting between you and a prospective partner. In many ways this seems like the worst time to launch an affair. You have so many financial and work responsibilities. What you fail to realise is that you need to balance work with play.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Leo 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22) ALL is not fair in love and war. Beware of engaging in underhanded behaviour, or it will come back to haunt you. If you're in love with someone who is obsessed with somebody else, stay calm. The tide will turn in your favour, provided you refrain from jealous displays.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Scorpio 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20) AN angry outburst could drive a romantic partner from your door. You need to learn how to express your frustrations in a healthier way. Right now you tend to bury your feelings until they fester and explode. This wreaks havoc on all of your relationships.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Pisces 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22) AN overbearing boss is making life tough. It gets you down you that you can't get up and leave this restrictive situation. Remember you have other responsibilities. By staying put, you'll be doing the wisest thing. The good news is that your love

life is getting better.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Gemini 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23) A BUSINESS or romantic contact is tired of you dragging your feet. Unfortunately, you are just not ready to make a serious commitment. It's better to break things off now, before either one of you becomes too fully invested in this relationship. A financial matter is music to your ears.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Virgo 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov23-Dec21) HIDDEN resentments are coming to the surface. You're tired of obeying a stuffy person's orders. Quitting a dead-end

job may be the best course of action. If you're looking for a better opportunity, spread the word among friends. Who you know is more important than what you know.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Sanittarius 09067-531760

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20) Don't push your luck at work. Although a colleagues methodical approach annoys you, it's essential the two of you get along. Putting them under pressure will backfire. Actually, you could benefit by adopting some of their vigilance. A relationship is coming to fruition.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Aries 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23) YOU have to be very careful when dealing with legal and financial paperwork. Answer every question. If you don't know how an entry should be phrased, check with the authorities. A domestic problem could finally be resolved. The result helps you to make a lifestyle change.

• To find out more about what the stars have in

store call Russell on Cancer 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct23) YOU'RE being pressured to churn out work at twice the normal rate. Let people know that their demands are unreasonable. If they threaten you with dismissal, don't worry. A personal project is coming to fruition. Getting paid to do what you love is a real possibility.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Libra 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20) ANGRY words could fly thick and fast between you and a conservative authority figure. You're tired of being treated like an ignoramus. By standing your ground they'll grow to respect you. You may not have a lot of experience, but you are a hard worker.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Capricorn 09067-531761

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

6

2 3

3

9

4



6



CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Angela met hysteria about purple gem (8)
- **6** Springy? (6)
- **9** It is light yellow and soft in marshy ground (6)
- 10 Many a caper by the Parisian in song (8)
- 11 Ought enemies be removed from place for public worship?
- 13 Shoot, say, the rapid (5)
- 14 Engagement involved both later (9)
- 17 Would it foil attempts to catch it? (9)
- 19 Hebridean island with no priest? (5)
- 21 Post for 25% of the employees (12)
- 24 Very modern step wise man concealed (5-3)
- 25 Royal colour (6)
- 26 Team from Plymouth, we hear, or Lochgilphead area (6) 27 Risked including Kenneth when it became more gloomy

DOWN

- 2 Thousand unwell at the plant (4)
- **3** It displays the bill of fare (9)
- 4 Rodney floundered in the distance (6)
- **5** A lightweight slab of clay outside that can be perceived by touch (7)
- 6 Sour-tasting wine from France eg Ray rejected (8)
- 7 Greek character included fashionable beast! (5)
- 8 Sailor who is fit? (4,6)
- 12 Rider to display item of clothing (10)
- 15 Military unit's job supporting church (4-5)
- 16 Nevertheless seeking a monopoly (5,3)
- 18 Stop payment we object during pay out (7)
- 20 Pre-arranged strike first using electronic device (6)
- 22 In a trick you caught little Richard (5)
- 23 Sad sportsman (4)

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No81

5 4 6 9 8 7

3 9 8 4 5 1 2

6 4 8

EASY

OUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Persuasive (8)
- **6** Develop (6)
- 9 Spray liquid (6)
- **10** Dirtiest (8)
- 11 Monitor lizard (6.6)
- 13 Brown pigment (5)
- 14 Pretender (9)
- 17 Teaching area (9)
- **19** Backbone (5)
- 21 Sweet coloured nut (6.6)

HARD

2 5 3

- **24** Kerosene (8)
- 25 Hate (6)
- 26 7enith (6) 27 In transit (2,3,3)

DOWN

- 2 Northern Scandinavian (4)
- **3** Speed (9)
- 4 Skin disease (6)
- 5 Faint-heartedly (7)
- 6 Scenery (8)
- 7 Porcelain (5)
- 8 Bad luck (10)
- **12** Improve (10)
- 15 Disown (9)
- 16 Pierce through (8)
- 18 Resort in Florida (7) 20 Drinking-cup (6)
- **22** Delta (anag. (5)
- 23 Order to stop) (4)

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No81

ACROSS: 1 Sky-sign 5 Tell off 9 Baku 10 Suspension 12 Low-level 13 Theist 14 Hundred Years 17 Aladdin's lamp 21 Idiocy 23 Embossed 24 Ventilator 25 Tizz 26 In place 27 Hayride. **DOWN:** 2 Klaxon 3 Squelched 4 Gas oven 6 Ejected 7 Lisle 8 Footsore 11 Self-respect 15 Expositor 16 Bludgeon 18 Idyllic 19 Alberta 20 Seized 22 Octal

QUICK SOLUTION No82

Goblet 22 Dealt 23 Whoa. OS obnelvO 8L xitznsvT əL ətsibuqəA 7 China 8 Misfortune 12 Ameliorate 15 Quickness 4 Eczema 5 Timidly 6 Backdrop Vertex 27 On the way. **DOWN:** 2 Lapp 3 Jordan almond 24 Paraffin 25 Loathe 26 14 Hypocrite 17 Classroom 19 Spine 21 TO MUCKIEST IT KOMODO DESGON LA UMBER ACROSS: 1 Eloquent 6 Become 9 Spritz



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DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION (PG)



Live action version of the manga series, Dragonball Evolution tells the story of Goku who sets out to find Master Roshi and gather the Dragon Balls before they fall into the hands of evil Lord Piccolo.

FAST AND FURIOUS (TBC)



Vin Diesel and Paul Walker return with the latest Fast and Furious thriller. Fugitive ex-con Dom Toretto (Diesel) is forced to hook up with his old adversary, agent Brian O'Conner, to confront a shared enemy.

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How petite Reese rose to meet a monster challenge

BY LAURA HARDING

IT would be too easy to dismiss Reese Witherspoon as another Hollywood blonde. While the Southern belle's impish looks could have guaranteed her a success in romantic comedies, Reese has chosen a more unconventional path.

From Pleasantville, about a pair of 1990s teenage siblings who are magically transported into 1950s, to her performance as June Carter Cash in the critically acclaimed Walk The Line, Reese has been drawn to unconventional roles.

Her latest challenge, voicing the part of Susan/Ginormica, a girl-turned-monster in new 3D animation Monsters vs Aliens, reflects her tendency not to fit in.

Susan is an ordinary girl planning her wedding when she is hit by a meteorite and turned into a giant. She is then dragged off to a secret government compound and has to fight evil aliens that are trying to take over the world.

Along the way Susan has to come to terms with who she is and accept and embrace the fact that she is different. As if that wasn't enough, Susan is locked in the compound with other monsters that the government doesn't know what to do with. At first she is repulsed but as the film goes on she learns to love them.

"Through the journey of the film, Susan starts to value and appreciate the monster crew for the support that they give her - the love, the companionship, the understanding that they have of the situation," Reese says.

"She has come to terms with the fact that she can't really go home again in the same way. She'll never be just Susan Murphy from



ACTING GIANT: Hollywood's 5ft 1in Reese Witherspoon

"At first that kind of depresses her, but then, through the help of the Monsters, she realises it's a little awesome to be different. They all value each other for their qualities, and they kind of form this offbeat family."

The film's powerful message about being an outsider was partly what drew Reese to the role. "I think it's great that this movie has a mes-

sage that no matter how weird you feel you definitely have a place in this world and sometimes that can be your greatest benefit," she says.

However much she loved the script, being a giant superhero was tough for 5ft 1in Reese, who had to channel all her efforts into sounding like she could take on an evil alien.
"They kept on saying, Be more like Arnold

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Schwarznegger or Sylvester Stallone, say it in that tagline way – "I am Ginormica!" and I couldn't do it, I sounded like a robot."

Reese also reveals that her two children -Ava, nine, and Deacon, five (both from her marriage to Cruel Intentions co-star Ryan Phillippe, whom she divorced in 2006) - are huge fans of the film and both had insightful interpretations of its deeper meaning.

"I was driving them home from the theatre and I said to my kids, 'So what do you guys think is the message of the movie?' And my daughter very thoughtfully said, I think it's a movie about never letting someone underestimate you and always living up to your true potential'. I said 'You're so astute Ava, yes that's exactly what it's about'.



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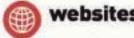
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PROPERTY NEWS

You say high council tax gives poor value

NEARLY 90 per cent of UK residents are unhappy with the services they receive in exchange for council tax, a new survey has revealed.

The poll of 4,800 homeowners and private tenants shows a third of people describing their local council as out of

Eighty-six per cent of people oppose a revaluation of council tax bands

Only seven per cent of respondents to the survey, by propertyfinder.com, expressed satisfaction with their local council and said they did not mind pay-

ing the tax.
"The average council tax has risen 74 er cent over the past ten years, while inflation has risen just under 20 per cent, but for many, services haven't improved," said Charles Wasdell, head of research at propertyfinder.com.

"Despite massive rises in council tax, people overwhelmingly feel they get poor-er value for money from local council."

Rental market value is back on the move

THE rental market has begun to show signs of recovery over the past three months, according to the findaproperty rental index.

The research shows the trend of falling asking prices and rising stock has slowed in the last quarter, with rental prices falling just -0.4 per cent in March, the lowest fall for six months.

Supply also slowed, with stock rising 1.9 per cent, the lowest monthly increase since September 2008, and well below the 12 per cent high seen in other months.

Average rents for March were £827 pcm, compared with £830 pcm in February, with tenant activity reducing the average time a property is on the market by five days over the month.

Andrew Smith, head of research, said: The UK rental market over the past year has been a story of rising supply levels outstripping tenant demand, which in turn has led to falling rental asking

How mortgage arrears make tenants homeless



INNOCENT: Tenants currently have no rights and are evicted when landlords default on their mortgage payments

BY **NICK AMES**

FOUR housing charities have launched a campaign to stop tenants being kicked on to the streets because their landlord has defaulted on mortgage payments.

Shelter, Citizens Advice, Crisis and the Chartered Institute of Housing, have teamed up to help the growing number of private tenants facing eviction through no fault of their own.

The organisations are calling for a change in the law to allow courts the power to defer repossessions to allow tenants to find other suitable accommodation.

Currently most private tenants have no legal rights, which means they can lose their home without notice.

The housing charities say they have heard of cases where tenants' belongings have been put out on the street and the locks have been changed.

Shelter chief executive Adam Sampson said: "Shelter has seen a steep rise in the number of tenants who have kept their side of the bargain by paying their rent, but who are being thrown out on to the street because their landlords have defaulted on the mortgage and the

house has been repossessed.
"With more and more landlords struggling with mortgage arrears and tenants facing repossession, the Government must allow the courts to defer possession dates so that tenants can find other suitable accommodation."

Members of the joint campaign are calling for the law to be changed to give courts the discretion to take into account the circumstances of sitting tenants where an outright possession order is granted, and defer possession for a limited period of time.

The charities have written to MPs urging them to sign an Early Day Motion, calling for changes to the law.

They estimate thousands of tenants in the private rented sector could be at risk of losing their homes in this way.

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DOVER

Countrywide



Three bedroom terrace house with double glazing, gas central heating, utility room and garden. No chain.

DOVER



A 2 bed semi det house, 2 receptions, double glazing, gas central heating, garden, hard standing. No chain.

DOVER



Two bedroom terrace house with double glazing, gas central heating,

ST MARGARETS AT CLIFFE



Two bedroom semi detached house with double glazing, gas central heating and garden.

ELMS VALE



Four bedroom end of terrace house in Elms Vale area with double glazing, gas central heating, utility & garden.

DOVER



Two bedroom ground floor apartment in sought after sea front development. No chain.

SHEPHERDSWELL



3 bed EOT house in village location with 2 receptions, bathroom & shower room, d/glazing, GCH, garden & ORP.



4 bed det family home in sought after location with 2 receptions, conservatory and double garage.

RIVER



3 bed extended semi detached house, en-suite and dressing room to master. D/glazing, GCH, garage & gardens

MARTIN MILL



Internal viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the character of this 3 bed former coach house in rural.

WHITFIELD



Three bedroom detached house with two receptions, en-suite, conservatory, garage and gardens. No chain.

Folkestone 01303 259211

folkestone@bairstoweves.co.uk

FOLKESTONE



Garden flat with no chain, cloak, lounge, kitchen, bedroom & bathroom/ WC. 30' wall enclosed garden.



3 bed split level apartment situated in Folkestone Harbour. Near all local amenities and offers some sea views.

FOLKESTONE



2 bed terrace home with d/glazing, gas c/heating, front and rear gardens & ORP.

FOLKESTONE



Two bedroom top floor apartment in the West End of Folkestone offered for sale with no chain.

CHERITON



Viewing is recommended for this 2 bed EOT house. Recently rewired & a central heating system installed.

FOLKESTONE



5 bed EOT house situated in a cul-de-sac. GCH, double glazing and a courtvard garden.

FOLKESTONE



Ground floor flat with L-shaped entrance hall, bay lounge, kitchen, 3 beds, bathroom/WC & storage.

HAWKINGE



Semi-det chalet bungalow with gardens, garage, 3/4 car parking, double glazing and GCH.

SANDGATE



EOT house with lounge, d/room, kitchen, 4 bed and bathroom/WC. GCH. Enclosed courtyard. No chain.

FOLKESTONE



2 bed detached bungalow, landscaped rear garden, sun room, d/glazing, gas c/heating, garage & ORP.

FOLKESTONE



3 bed detached family home with d/glazing, GFCH, garage and off road parking.

FOLKESTONE



Five bed semi-det house over 3 floors. Easy walking distance of the town, Radnor Park and train station.

FOLKESTONE



4 bed EOT house over 3 floors, lounge, d/room, kitchen, break/ room, study, cloak, ensuite & 2 bathrooms/WC's.

HYTHE



5 beds, 2 receptions, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, d/garage, paddocks approx 1.5 acres, stables & tack room.

FOLKESTONE



6 bed det property in the 'West End'. Arranged over 3 floors with attention to detail throughout.









The UK's most visited estate agency website*

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SELLINDGE

£179,995



folkestone@your-move.co.uk

0845 370 9714

End Terrace 19th Century Cottage Private Community Village Location
 Two Double Bedrooms Backing Onto Surrounding Fields
 Open Plan Living Space Parking And Garage
 Rear Garden With Sunny Aspect Viewing Is A Must

SHOLDEN

£249,000



- Sought After Private Estate Vaulted Ceilings To Lounge
- Modern Bathroom And Kitchen Front Courtyard Garden
- Set In Private Grounds Parking D.Glazing Where Stated

SALES



• Semi Det Home • Popular



ne@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 971 Top Floor Flat Two Double Beds
 In Need Of Modernisation

FOLKESTONE £129.950

folkestone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9714 • 3 Bed Det Family Home • In Need Of Modernisation • NO ONWARD



olkestone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9714 • Eco Built House • Solar Panel



• Semi Det Houses • Over 3 Floors • Four Bedrooms With 2 En-Suites



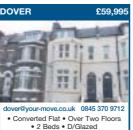
Detach Bungalow • 3 Dble Beds
 Loft Room • En-suite to Master



stone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9714



olkestone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9714 • Semi Detach Home • NO ONWARD CHAIN • 2 Beds • Lounge/Dining Rm







• 2 Bed Cottage • Rear Garden



• Semi-Det House • 3 Beds • Stamp

£169.995



• Det Bungalow • 2 Beds • Garage &





• 2 Dble Beds • Semi Det Bungalov • OSP & Garage • Conservatory





DEAL

dover@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9712 Deds • Terraced Cottage
 Conservation Area • Through Lounger



• 3 Beds • Semi Detached House OSP & Garage • Through Lounge

First time buyers return - make your move today

Thinking of selling? Don't delay - the market is coming back to life. In February, new buyer registrations by 36 percent*. And, importantly, first time buyers returned with a vengeance with more than double* looking to buy in the first two weeks of January. It's good news for the market and great news if you are thinking of selling. Act now.

Contact us for more details.



LETTINGS



• 2 bed flat • Newly decorated • Gas





• 2 Bed detached bungalow • Newly refurbished • Garage & conservatory



• 2 bed 1st floor flat • Bay fitted



BRAND NEW 3 BEDROOM HOUSE



Unfurnished • Gas central heating
 Courtyard garden • White goods











... not just an estate agent KENT COMPANY of the YEAR







FOLKESTONE OFFICE

- 1 BEDROOM HOUSE
- FULLY RENOVATED
- NO CHAIN



FOLKESTONE OFFICE

HFP02270

- VERY LARGE APARTMENT IN GOOD LOCATION
- TWO BEDROOMS/TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- STUDY/OWN PRIVATE REAR GARDEN



FOLKESTONE OFFICE

HFP02728

- WESTCLIFF LOCATION, SEA VIEWS
- 3 BEDROOM, 2ND FLOOR APARTMENT
- 2 RECEPTIONS LIFT



FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02738

- Modern 3 bedroom detached
- 2 Receptions, cloakroom
- En suite & garage/driveway



HFP02742

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02910

- ONE BEDROOM APPARTMENT
- NEWLY BUILT NO CHAIN





FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02847

- Huge Semi detached
- 5 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms
- Desirable location



FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02699

- Cottage in charming rural spot
- Central heating, double glazing
- Generious garden, parking



FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02082

- STUDIO FLAT
- NEWLY RENOVATED
- NO CHAIN



FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02634

- 5 Bedroom family home
- 2 Receptions, cloakroom
- Courtyard & no chain



FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02379

- 2 BED APPARTMENT
- LOTS OF FEATURES
- SHARED GARDEN & NO CHAIN



FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02739

- GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
 - TWO BEDROOMS, ONE EN-SUITE
- PRIVATE GARDEN



FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02891

- Fantastic family home
- Sought afdter location
- 4 Beds, master en-suite



FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP01807

- Detached two bedroom bungalow
- Two reception rooms
- Fantastic Views over the seas



FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02898 FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED

- DOUBLE GARAGE
- PANORAMIC SEA VIEWS



FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02475

- 2 BEDROOM SEMI BUNGALOW GARAGE & LARGE GARDEN
- NO CHAIN



- 4 BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- GARAGE & SEA VIEWS
- NO CHAIN



- Large 3 bed apartment
- Luxury fittings
- No Chain





Ward & Partners

To view all our homes: wardandpartners.co.uk



River | Price Range £325,000-£375,000

- 4 Bed Family Home
- Sought After Location
- Double Garage/Off Road Parking

DOVER OFFICE I 01304 214876



St Margarets | Price Range £299,995-£349,995

- Approx 1.3 Acres/Stable & Paddock
- Garage/Workshop

DOVER OFFICE I 01304 214876



Whitfield | Price £249,950

- Approx 23' Lounge/Diner
- Garage & Driveway parking DOVER OFFICE I 01304 214876



Dover | Price Range £125,000-£145,00

- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Good Size Accommodation

DOVER OFFICE I 01304 214876

GOOD NEWS!

Our viewings are up a staggering 62% compared to last year.*

Can we get you moving?

ARE appearing in the PROPERTY MARKET!





Dover | Price Range £110,00-£130,000

- 3 Bedrooms
- · Double Glazing & Central Heating
- · Fantastic Views to Front

DOVER OFFICE I 01304 214876



Dover I Price Range £100,000-£120,000

- Two Bedrooms
- Double Glazing/Central Heating
- · Shed/Workshop/ Lean to Conservatory

DOVER OFFICE I 01304 214876



Dover | Price Range £99,000-£119,000

- 3 Bedrooms
- Double Glazing / Central heating
- No Onward Chain

DOVER OFFICE I 01304 214876



Dover | Price Range £95,000-£115,000

- 2/3 Bedroom Maisonette
- · Own the Freehold for the building
- Double Glazing & Central Heating **DOVER OFFICE I 01304 214876**



Dover | Price Range £79,995-£99,995

- 3 bed terraced
- Within easy reach of local schools
- · Modern fitted kitchen, DG and CH **DOVER OFFICE I 01304 214876**



For your ideal home, contact your local branch:

Deal: 01304 361420 Dover: 01304 214876

Folkestone: 01303 256505

Telephone editorial: 01303 817200

63

the fast *moving* estate agent!



FEATURE PROPERTY

tersons





- CHAIN FREE!! Central location
- 2 Double bed 1st floor flat · Lounge, modern kitchen/diner
- D. glazing, Gas central heating

Dover: 01304 246111



£109,995 £97.500 Dover

- CHAIN FREE • 2 Double bed Extended house
- Lounge D. glazingGas central heating

Dover: 01304 246111



- · 2 double bedroom apartment
- · Close to town centre
- · Lounge/diner, Modern kitchen

· Garage, Chain free Dover: 01304 246111



OIRO £185,000

- 3 Double Bedroom Penthouse Apartment
- 2 Bedrooms with en-suite bathroom
- Lounge, dining room and modern kitchen
- 2 Roof terraces
 Garage
 DG & GCH
- Good order throughout!!
- · Chain Free!!!



(() RICS NAEA

rightmove.co.uk

- 3 Bed semi-detached house
- · En-suite shower rm to master
- · Lounge, modern kitchen/diner Great conservatory

Dover: 01304 246111

· Building Plot, Sea Views

SSSI land to Rear



- 2 bed semi-detached bungalow
- · Lounge, modern kitchen
- Driveway, garage & rear garden

Dover: 01304 246111





- · Balcony, Lounge
- 2 Double Bedrooms

· Detached Chalet Style Home New Romney: 01797 364600

£120.000



· Fantastic Sea Views!

Kitchen with Space to Dine

New Romney: 01797 364600



- · Detached Modern House
- Superb Location
- · 3 Bedrooms

New Romney: 01797 364600



· CHAIN FREE, 3 bed apartment

· Lounge/diner, 2 front balconies

· Fantastic Sea views

· Enclosed rear balcony

Dover: 01304 246111

- · Seafront Position
- · Detached Home, 4 Bedrooms
- · Cloakroom, En-Suite



Dover: 01304 246111

- 4 Bedrooms
- · Very Well Presented
- · Ideal Location, Large Lounge Outside Storage Space

New Romney: 01797 364600

Public notice

52 Roberts Road, Greatstone, New Romney, Kent TN28 8RQ

By order of the mortgagee in possession, we would advise you that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds (120.000.00)

Any Person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the selling agents, Tersons, of their best offer during the course of the next 7 Days from Wednesday 8th April

New Romney: 01797 364600

27-29 Castle Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1PT e: dover@tersons.com

New Romney: 01797 364600

Tersons Commercial



- Approx. 2,211 sq. ft of space
- Bus and train stations nearby



- Storage, Office, Warehouse
- Potential for redevelopment Subject to permissions
- Dover: 01304 246115



- Various units to rent · Covered shopping mall
- Linked to car park Dover: 01304 246115





Sizeable and useful space



- Off the busy Industrial Estate
- Total internal floor of 6840 sq ft. Roller shutter door

Dover: 01304 246115



- Substantial detached unit · Close to railway station
- Internal storage of 6 859 sq ft
- Dover: 01304 246115

Contact our Commercial Team on 01304 246115 e: commercial@tersons.com

Tersons Residential Lettings

DOVER OFFICE

VICTORIA PARK & LAURESTON PLACE 1 & 2 Bedroom flats FROM £250 PCM THE RIDGEWAY, RIVER 3 bedroom semi-detached house £675 PCM GODWYNE CLOSE, DOVER 2 double bedroom 1st floor flat £525 PCM BENCH STREET, DOVER 2 boom recently refurbished flat £400 PCM FARTHINGLOE COURT- DOVER Various 1 bedroom flats £400 PCM THE PADDOCK, DOVER 2 Bedroom top floor flat close to town. . . £425 PCM DOVER Spacious 3 bedroom maisonette, Sep. lounge & kitchen. . . £525 PCM WINCHELSEA STREET 2 bedroom terraced house. Lounge/diner. £520 PCM DOVER 2 Bedroom top floor flat with roof terrace. Good order..... £425 PCM HAROLD STREET Spacious 2 double bed ground floor apartment. . £525PCM

NEW ROMNEY OFFICE

NEW NOMINE! OFFICE	
CAMBER Large 2 Bed Flat First Floor £	2450 PCM
GREATSTONE 4 Bed Detached 'on the beach'	2850 PCM
LITTLESTONE 3 bed semi, gge, lge garden £	2775 PCM
LITTLESTONE 3 bed detached by Golf Course £	2850 PCM
LYDD 4 Bed Detached, fab price£	2600 PCM
ALDINGTON 4 Bed Barn, lovely rural location £1250 N	NEG PCM

Dover: 01304 212423 New Romney: 01797 364667





No Deposit Needed!



Pay for 75% and get 25% INTEREST FREE*



Fantastic high specification 4 bedroom houses each including a garage and parking space. Apartments also available.

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Part exchange scheme also available**

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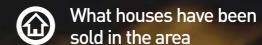
Email: newmeridianvillage@exploreliving.co.uk www.exploreliving.co.uk

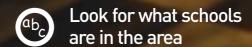


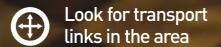
*For the first 10 years. YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED AGAINST IT. Offer is available on selected plots for a limited period only. Terms and conditions apply. Subject to agreement and contract. Use of incentive subject to using Explore Living's recommended IFA and solicitors. Route 75 is not available in conjunction with any other offer. Scheme only available to those financing the purchase with an approved mortge lender. Ptprice shown of £199,496 is based on 75% of the full asking price of £265,50 for a 4 bedroom house. Price correct at time of press. Photography of New Meridian Village. Map not to scale. **Part exchange not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms and conditions apply.

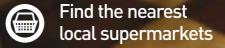
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BROWSE and listen line:

0906 753 3093

HELP required with service?



HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 54", size 12, dark hair with blonde high-lights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for happy relationship. Turbridge Wells. Box 308734 © PREADY FOR ME?

READY FOR ME?

Single mum from Kent, 34, 514, works part time, looking for an easy-going and genuine male with gosh for friendship, more. Box 450649 © LIVING IT

Fair-haired female, 35, 5ft, loves the

Intendship, Inuite, Dun Touche, Dun Touche, Dun Touche, Dun Touche, T

that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595 €

A NEW FUTURE!

I'm Rachel, \$5, medium, enjoys pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, cinema, theme parks, looking someone special to share things with. Box 448591 €

ON A ROLL!

Hi, I'm Alison, 36, 515, single mum, loves swimming, roller skating and meeting new people, looking for a male for friendship, maybe leading to more. Box 448665 €

WISHFULLY YOURS

Loving lenale, 37, 512, brown hair, slim build, looking for honest, caring male with \$650H, for firendship, leading to more. Ashford. Box 449915 €

WOMEN seeking men

TAKE ME FOR WHO IAM
HI'm Sam, 22, looking for a relationship. I'm blonde, brown eyes, love
cosy nights in and cinema, looking to
share a relationship. Box 447871 ⊕
WHAI''S THE SCORE?
Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25,
512, a woman who loves football!
Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her
soulmate. Box 446494 ⊕
EETTING TO KNOW YOU...

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...
Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seeks similar male, 58-62, for a last

seeks similar male, 56-62, for a last-ing relationship. Box 448756 **BRING ME SUNSHINE**Outgoing, fun female 28, seek outgo-ing, fun guy to make me laugh, share good times with. Box 882511 **Q**

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-

good times with. Box 802011 • GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 ①

Success Stories



Read or write your own Success Story. Our members have been keen to write about their stories and how they met - who knows, their stories may help you in your search! We are always glad to hear from you.

• Increase your dating success Online, say more about yourself and your perfiperation with our extended profile, add extra photos to your profile, even change your ad's colour! It makes for a great dating advert that other people are bound to like!

Search at your leisure
If you can't find who you're looking for on our
page here, you will find so many more members
online. Browse, read, hear and see members.

STACEY LOOKING

FOR HER GAVIN
Slim, blue-eyed beauty, 31, Tunbridge
Wells, loving, caring, very genuine.
Wanting someone to cuddle up with at night and have lots of laughs with. Box 881494 **②**

HAPPY SHOPPER!

Easygoing female, 32, enjoys shop-ping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTM loving, caring white male, 35-47, for long-term, loving relationship. No time-wasters. Box 444214 **①**

CHATHAM UP!

CHATHAM UP!
Pretty black femie, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR. Chatham. Box 437778

☐

CUDDLY FEMALE
32, 5ft9, brown hair, curvy figure, enjoys having fun and a laugh, and WLTM nice, kind gent. Box 439402

FIT FOR FUN
Petite, dark-haired girl, 33, 5ft, fit, loves badminton, cinema and more, searching for an active man, with heart and soul. Box 881047 (*)
CONSIDERATE,

CARING, CONSIDERATE,
HOPEFULLY YOURS
Lovely young lady, 33, 518, cuddly
larger buld, single mum, seeking kind,
caring, honest and genuine man for
fur/fiendship...hopefully more. Box
450371 ①

AND THE SPARKS WILL FLY Bubbly lively lady, 5ft7, outgoing, 33, honest, reliable, looking for someone to get to know and see what happen Sittingbourne. Box 449585 **① ②**

HORSES FOR COURSES...
Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 0

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Good looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, 2 kids. Looking for new friends, and hopefully someone special. Box 446039

cal. Box 446039 U
LOOKING FOR
A LOVING CHAP
Ashford-based woman looking for an
honest, friendly, caring and loving
man. I have two kids and enjoy the
usual things in life. Box 446885 U

MANUAL CONTROL OF THE LOVE

LOVE

THE CONTROL OF THE LOVE

L

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552 ①

446552 **⊕ HISTORIC MEETING?**Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 **⊕**

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large-build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 • •

CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983 **① ②**

FREE AD placement, call: 0808 156 5339 **COLLECT** your messages:

0906 550 4335

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED! Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy!

likes the gym, reading, new experi-ences! seeking a nice man for poten-tial exciting relationship! Box 446724

Seeking genuine, sincere, honest guy who likes to have fun. I'm a friendly, 40yr old female, like cats, wind surf-ing, railway trips, cafes. Box 449747

ring, railway trips, cafes. Box 449747

THE SIMPLE THINGS....

I like reading/writing, going out, music.

Seeking kind, genuine, honest chap;
I'm a 40yr old woman who enjoys the simple things in life. Box 448542

↑



YOUNG-AT-HEART Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 🕡 😯

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

A NICE BUTILE OF WINE
Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old,
petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatter, music and eating out, wiltm a
professional, loving and tactile male
for a relationship. Box 442551 10 0
SOUND GOOD?

Medium build brunette, 40, 5f7, single

mum, enjoy bowling and water-sports looking for a tall, non-smoking, white male for a stable and affectionate

relationship. Box 450658

Attractive woman with a great persor ality to go with, looking to meet a fit,

tall, well-built black male, 35-55, for fun times and hopefully romance. Box 450650 **①**

NO TIES
Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge
Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTM slim, single, solvent, professional white male
40-50 for company, fun, love and
laughter. Box 443573

LIFE IS GIVING LOVE A GUARANTEE

Down-to-earth lady, 42, sincere, hon-est and reliable, looking for a male for friendship first, going out, enjoying evenings and perhaps something more later on. Box 449712 **①**

COSY TIMES TOGETHER

Fun-loving female, 42, looking for someone who can make me laugh and eniovs country walks, films, tray elling and a nice evening cuddled up. Box 881545 1

Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5f110, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gsoh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 **①**

AIMING HIGH

6ft blonde aerobics instructor, female, 43, seeking decent, tall, fit male for companionship, hopefully leading to a relationship in my spare time (mainly afternoons). Box 446017 ① SATURDAY NIGHT

AT THE MOVIES!!

Single mum, 43, kind and devoted, likes walks, cinema, beaches and socialising, drinks and films, seeks similar man for lasting love. Box socialising, unaversessimilar man for lasting love. Box 449368 © COME ON DOWN!
Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising, seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box

friendship leading to more. DUN 822693 © SOUND GOOD? Hi Im Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrol-ogy, cars; seeking honest, caring, out-going guy to enjoy music, fun, fiend-ship and more! Box 449186

ship and more! Box 449186

LOCKING FOR LOVE

Sun-loving 48yr old woman with a second home in Lanzarote, 5ft6, fairly slim, hazel eyes, looking for a man to share fun times with. Box 450310 •

share fun times with. Box 450310 **①**ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box

HAPPY GO LUCKY Sincere, happy woman, with GSOH.
I'm 5ft6, with short brown hair, brown

eyes. I have lots of interests and WLTM similar guy. Box 895019 ①

LAUGHTER, THE BEST MEDICINE

Help me write my stand-up comedy routine! I'm 49, you'll need to make me laugh out loud and understand observational comedy to make the grade. Box 892640 •

JUST IMAGINE

BE MY GUY Young 50s lady, slim, 5ft4, fair hair, a smoker, loves music, going out, cook-ing, gardening, seeking similar loving, caring, honest male. Box 449288

■

HERE AND NOW
Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 448524 ©
ENTERTAIN ME
Female, 50, medium build, blonde, quite short, seeking tall, confident, sensual guy for regular wining, dining, loving and laughter, must be honest, genuine and loving, Box 438854 ©
CARING & PROFESSIONAL
Female 49, 514, long hair, sim build,

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 417100



REPLY to an ad. call: 0905 211 0651

REPLY by Gext

You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to **82250** e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS...

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS...
I'm 51, fed up with playing solitaire on
the computer! Sincere and loving,
enjoy many interests, looking for
friendship, hopefully leading to more.
Box 881711 •

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL... Young looking, hard working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 383410 🕡

MAKE IT HAPPEN

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 •

A COMPANION FOR LIFE?

A COMPANION FOR LIFE?
Blonde lady, 56, 5ft5, medium build, attractive, devoted mum, ready to start dating again and seeking male who loves travel, theatre, walks, cine ma and more. Box 448449 ①

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE? Hi, I'm 58, 5ft7 with fair hair, medium build, love dancing and music, pubs, clubs, socialising, looking for a similar easygoing, romantic man for love. Box 450764 **①**

Quick, easy way to view a member's Photo!

Look for the P symbol. Just enter the six-digit Box number, followed by a space, then **PHOTO** and send to **82250** Your phone must be WAP-enabled

Add a photo of yourself

Register your number with us & send by MMS to 07786 203 777. Enter P2P as subject. MMS - standard network charges apply

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

HAPPY AS ME

Fun-to-be with, happy, contented lady (60), 5ft4, I enjoy theatre, dining out and having friends round for a meal, gardening and pets. Box 882812 ①

SOMEBODY TO
LAUGH WITH...
Loving lady looking for companion-ship, 63, 513, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 44332 ©

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR
Smart, attractive, bubbly blonde, 72,
own house, GSOH, lives on coast,
enjoys most things, WLTM smart gentleman for friendship, maybe more...Gareth please call again...leave contacts! Box 438147

Women seeking women

LOVE TO LOVE

Easygoing female, 40, blue eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes wining, dining, socialising, holidays, walks cinema; seeking likewise female for companionship and more. Box 446953

HOPEFULLY MORE Feminine woman, easygoing, caring, 45, long brown hair, blue eyes. I love music, eating out, reading/writing, drives, weekends away, WLTM boy-ish female. Box 448248 •



MEN seeking women

heart of gold. Box 45058 PERFECT FOR YOU

Black male, 25, currently a student, 5ft6, attractive, likes pubs and clubs, cinema and going out for meals, look-ing for a like-minded girl. Box 450770

woman for friendship and romance.
Box 889720 **©**MAKE ME SMILE AGAIN

MAKE ME SMILE AGAIN
Seeking genuine lady. I'm a 38yr old
male, 6ft9, dark harirblue eyes. I work
hard and play hard, would like to
enjoy spare ime with partner. Box
449649 The strick of the strick of the strick
STICK WITH YOU
Attentive 38yr old male, looking for a
special lady to slowly re-discover all
the finer things in life with. Box
450599 TIME'S ON OUR SIDE!
Adventure, 38, medium build, 5ft8,

TLC ON OFFER
Good-looking man, 40, 5ft7, medium
build, dark hair/brown eyes, like trav-elling, sport and adventures, looking
for a girl, same interests, 20-33, for
friendship/romance. Box 450613 THOP ON!

HOP ON!
Hello there, I'm male, 40, medium/large build. I enjoy most things in life, going out, nights in, WLTM nice woman to share interests with. Box 45078 ©

short hair, athletic, very tactile, loving and spontaneous, likes shopping, travelling, eating in/out, hate football! Brighton. Box 450614 INTELLIGENT AND FUNNY

Enquiring, motivated, compassiona open-minded and easygoing male, 41. Love people who show happiness, uniqueness, optimism, generosity, kindness and independence Do you fit the bill? Box 880927

nship. Box 450316 🕡 🕑

FOREVER AND EVER

Roland, 22, looking for a woman, 18 25, for fun, friendship and hopefully love. I'm fun to be with and have a heart of gold. Box 450586

ing for a like-minded girl. Box 450770

COUPLE UP

Bachelor, 28, I like music, travel, socialising, I live in Rye, and WLTM like minded woman, with similar interests. Box 450656 ©

KEEPING IT RES, seeking female 18-30, blonde, blue eyes, slim, to get to know towards hopeful relationship. Box 450810 ©

THE GOOD LIFE
Blonde male, 37, 5ffs, love golf, don't mind a beer, WLTM an opper-minded female for good times, maybe a relationship. Box 450544 ©

DOWN BY THE BEACH
H ITM Kevin, 37, 6ftt, medium build, loves cinema, music, walks and the sea, seeking similar grid to find love with. Box 449844 ©

AIM HIGH

Straightforward guy, 37, looking for someone between 18-20, blonde, slim with blue eyes, to find love and settle down with, have a family, Box 450752 ©

EVERYTHING I DO

EVERYTHING I DO

EVERYTHING I DO

EVERYTHING I DO

Love of their 250 relations in the burner. EVERYTHING I DO

EVERYTHING I DOLee, driver, 36yr old, 6ft3, dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, witm a

HIYA I'm a cute and laid-back guy, 41, 5ft8,

Do you fit the bill? Box 88092/ VOU'RE THE
ONE THAT I WANT
Caring 41yr old male, 5ft11, short
brown hair, blue eyes, enjoy theme
parks, cinema, bowling, looking for a
lady, 18-32, for friendship, maybe a

PUT THE SPICE BACK IN! Family orientated guy, 41, separated, looking to find a lady who wants the fun and company of a partner back into their life. Box 884085 ① ②

ON THE WINGS OF LOVE Genuine, upbeat, comical male, 42, handsome, charming, likes sports, keeping trim, making new discoveries seeks beautiful lady of inside and out for love. Pevensey. Box 450622 ①

ALL NIGHT LONG

ALL NIGHT LONG
I'm 44, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6,
loves the cinema and beach walks,
music, nights in and out, cooking;
seeking female 35-52 for promising
relationship. Box 449992
● TO LOVE SOMEONE

Very caring, loyal male, genuine and romantic, with GSOH, seeking lady with similar interests hopefully for LTR. I'm 44, slim build, with blue eyes/fair hair. Hastings. Box 446120

HURT IN THE PAST
Hastings area. I'm a 46yr old guy,
seeking genuine, honest woman who
is looking for a relationship. I have 2
daughters who I see regularly. Box
450091 0

450091 **①**INTERESTED?
Hard-working male, 46, smart, single, loyal, kind and caring, likes rights in and out, looking for romance or friend-ship first... Box 449756 **②**SOMEONE TO SHARE WITH

Fancy a walk along the beach at sunset? A cosy night on the sofa? I'm male, 46, average build. I'm romantic, and like animals, and holidays. Box 447858 •

A17838 © TAKING LIFE BY THE HORNS
Spontaneous guy, 46, 61, blonde,
blue eyes, likes country pubs, cinemas, walks, the gym, horse-racing,
theatre and more, looking for similar
nappy-go-lucky girl. Box 450728 ©

NEW BEGINNING
Sincere genuine man, 47, 5ft9,
cropped hair, blue eyes, clean
shaven, divorced, looking to meet a
nice woman to get to know and take nice woman to get to know and take out. Eastbourne. Box 449554 ① ②

DISCOVER ME Self employed, divorced male, 48, 6ft3, blue eyes, own house/car, loves animals, cooking, country walks, looking for a lady to settle down with. Box

48589 CHILD LOVER ESSENTIAL

HONEST, CONSIDERATE, FRIENDLY Loving caring honest male, 50, 5ft6, stocky, short dark hair, loves animals,

football, walks, pubs, meals, cosy

nights in; seeking friendly cuddly female for LTR. Box 450697 ①

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME Hi, I'm Mark, 38, looking for a nice and caring older man for a committed relationship. Any takers? Box 450596 FUN-LOVING

mere. Box 450610 DO YOU FEEL THE SAME?

Well-educated and fit male, 69, likes mountain walking, travelling and outdoor life, looking for a young chap to share fun times and more with. Box 450611 DO

TEXT REPLY: For your protection, you will not be allowed to swap contact details until you have exchanged five messages each. QUIDELINES, additionally the provided five messages each. QUIDELINES, additionally the provided five messages each. QUIDELINES, additionally additionally each exception with the provided five first provided five messages each. QUIDELINES, additionally add for any reason. As may not be submitted by persons younger than 18 years of age for publication in yourkentdating. Also, no ads will be published seeking persons younger than 18 years of age. DISCLAIMER: KOS Media assumes no liability for the content of or reply to any personal advertisement. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content of all replies to any advertisement or recorded message and for any claims made against KOS Media as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold KOS Media so result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold KOS Media harmless from damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. If you are not a BT telephone customer, please contact your service provider for details of their charges. Service provided by g8wave Ltd. DATA PROTECTION: The People2People™ service is provided by g8wave Ltd. Old Tileyard Studios, Tileyard Road, London N7 9AH, g8wave Ltd will collect the details you provide when placing your qui, including your name and address and may use your information to send you details of other related services and events operated by the company. Your name and only use it for their own marketing purposes. Your ad may appear in other newspapers and on the People2People™ internet site. If you are not a BT telephone customer, please contact your service provider for details of their charges. "yourkentdating" is a trademark of g8wave Ltd.

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(Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD Intelligent good-humoured man, 53 5ft10, nice looking, loves history, countryside/nature, animals, theatre music, meals and most things, seeks outgoing attractive lady to get to know. Box 450723 ①

MUSCLE WOMAN?

INTELLIGENT GENT

ROCK & ROLL
Rochester male, 52, 5ft11, dark hair, head chef for the British army, likes driving, coast, have 2 dogs, birds of prey, seeking a bright lady. Box 427936 ©
SOULMATES?
Ramenate professional 56 tall slim

NOW AND FOREVER
Loyal, honest guy, 59, easyngoing, tactile, affectionate, enjoys candlelit dinners, romantic walks by sea and
music, seeks attractive lady for lasting
relationship. Ashford. Box 449553

PICTURE THIS

Cuddly male, 58, 57", green eyes,
glasses, medium build, enjoys most
things in life. seeks similar female, for
friendship, maybe more. Box 396108

■

inings in life. Seeds similar letilate; of hieradship, maybe more. Box 396108

White male, 62, 5ft10, grey hair, likes the countryside, travel, watching sport, gardening; seeking non-smoking lady of similar age to share life with. Dover area. Box 446326 © ©

BE MINE?

Property developer, 62, travelled Europe and beyond, eclectic interests, romantic, sensitive, seeks attractive and intelligent female rinen, soulmate. Box 892490 © ©

62 AND HAPPY

soulmate. Box 892490 **@ 62 AND HAPP' 62yr** old young loxing, active man, 5'6", looking for a sociable lady with a lively personality for companionship and maybe LTR. Box 438982 **@**

seeking men

New-to-town male, 41, 5ft10, looking for a gay or bi male, 30-55, for friendship, romance, hopefully a LTR. Box 450637 €

450637 **⊕**WHO KNOWS?
Very fit slim male, 69 but in very good condition! Looking for a young chap to chat to and see where we go from there. Box 450610 **⊕**

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MOTORS NEWS



Kit cars look attractive proposition in recession

MANUFACTURERS of kit cars could prosper from the credit crunch, says the organiser of Easter's Kit Car Show at the Kent Showground. Detling this weekend.

Kent Showground, Detling this weekend. John Cooke said: "Many people budgeting up to £20,000 for a weekend fun car before the recession could now shop for a good quality two-seat roadster kit car that will set them back just £8,000."

Local kit firms include Cobra lookalike (as pictured) builder, Hawk Cars (Frant), AEON (Marden), Blaze (Otham), Cranbrook Kitcars and GKD (Maidstone).



Start-stop is real boost to Fiat star's eco cred

FIAT has a new 'Start&Stop' system for the 1.2-litre junior petrol engine on its 500 cult car.

It automatically turns the engine off when the vehicle stops and the driver selects neutral, restarting when the clutch pedal is depressed for gear selection and driving away. Fiat says Start&Stop can boost economy in town from 44.1mpg to 49.6mpg and cut emissions.

This (£9,500) 500 version also comes with MP3 compatibility, air-con, 15-inch alloys and remote audio controls.



A 'redundancy-proof' deal tabled by Volvo

VOLVO reckons fear of redundancy is a major barrier to car buying now so it has added free unemployment, life, accident and sickness protection to financial deals on its C30 hatchback coupé and S40 saloon (pictured) and V50 estate, including low emission DRIVe versions.

The free Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) covers all monthly payments due on the finance agreement for up to 12 months if needed. The deal runs until June 30 this year through participating dealerships and relevant Volvo Car Finance.



LITTLE BUT LARGE: Despite compact dimensions the Mercedes A-Class feels huge inside with excellent head and legroom with a boot that can be adjusted between two heights

Spacious Merc A-Class outgrows its pigeonhole

DOWNSIZING could open up new sales for the Mercedes-Benz A-Class after a midlife makeover.

Part of the problem before was the current A-Class – launched in 2005 – being pigeon-holed with junior models from BMW 1-Series and Audi A3, while unable to match the driving appeal and cachet of these sporting hatchbacks.

On the other hand, it can look expensive (from £14,000) against mainstream small MPVs, yet the Merc is really in a 'class' of its own – a clever three or five-door holdall for buyers aiming to downsize, but keep a posh badge.

aiming to downsize, but keep a posh badge.

In a driving context it also delivers more than most small MPV rivals without a significant ride penalty.

The steering can lack feedback, but the A-Class is a paragon of safety and security when pushed and the latest facelift has enhanced the front end with new headlamps and bumper, plus extra brightwork for the upmarket Elegance and Avantgarde trims.

Despite compact dimensions, the A-Class feels huge inside with superb head and legroom in the back, without robbing the car of boot space. The boot can also be adjusted quick-

ROAD TEST MERCEDES A-CLASS

BY **STEVE LOADER**

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Green rating	****

ly between two heights to deliver a fully flat 'van' floor with extra compartment beneath when the rear seats are folded, or a deeper boot with the floor in the lower position.

The cabin feels staid, but well made, with good storage and a well-arranged dash.

Standard equipment on our smart sports trim 1.7-litre petrol Avantgarde is generous, but it has a typically hefty £17,626 price tag and specc'ing up with the desirable Luxury Package – leather seats, auto climate control, heated front seats and electrically adjustable front seats – take it to more than £19,000.

But Mercedes is generous elsewhere; our car was a new BlueEfficiency eco-friendly model that sells for around the same as a standard model – unlike the premiums charged for eco versions produced by other manufacturers.

And you start saving immediately with up to eight per cent better economy, lower emissions and lower road tax in most cases — plus a lighter conscience.

Ours is capable of an average mpg in the mid-40s and there is no discernable price to pay in terms of driving enjoyment, performance or comfort – the best way to deliver the green message.



Holls Motors There's nowhere better for used cars



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	03 03	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 LX ESTATE SILVER/GREY MET, 1 KEEPER, 41600 MILES







69

USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE SUPERMINIS

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AS more people downsize their car and their fuel and road tax bills, chances are that one or all of the following popular used superminis will be on their shopping list. Year in, year out they are the UK's most consistent best-sellers – a growing trend in the current economic climate. The trio are also excellent all-rounders, but a word of warning: as second-hand car prices harden, make sure you don't pay more than it would cost to keep your old car longer or trade up to a new car.

FORD FIESTA



FORD'S hugely successful supermini has marched on with a new model launched in late 2008, but don't expect weaker used prices; the credit crunch, rising fuel prices and draconian road taxes have made the Fiesta a top target for its reliability, decent driving experience, engines to suit all pockets and three and five-door body styles. Ford has also regularly produced special and limited editions laden with extra goodies, offering plenty more choice and there is even a hot ST model.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Looks and image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Quality	****

RENAULT CLIO



DOWNSIZING can be sensible and chic with the Clio and the most recent generations have married durability and driving fun with Gallic charm. Again, the option or three or five doors is a big selling point, but our French contender also has the bonus of excellent diesel versions, though the cost of the actual fuel versus petrol argues against it currently. The Clio design has tended to be highly practical as well as charming, with good space for rear passengers.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Looks and image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Quality	****

VAUXHALL CORSA



VAUXHALL'S Corsa was created to attack the Fiesta, yet has never quite achieved the volumes of its rival. Nevertheless, it offers similar virtues, plus a greater range of engines including a punchy and frugal three-cylinder petrol engine now in greater demand due to these straitened times. Several generations of Corsa followed a 'teardrop' body style, but the latest car is bigger and more aggressively sculpted – almost a 'supersize supermini' – with a sporty VXR version too.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Looks and image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Quality	****

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07 07

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PAJERO 2.0 Exceed, K reg, non-working, MoT till August. Brilliant condition for parts and spares. Some extras. £400 ono, 07828294077 (PRIVATE)

L200. Animal Double Cab 2.5 Di-d Automatic, wm56flz, abs. adjustable remote locking, black, 12500 miles £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

L200. Club Cab 4 Life 2.5 DiD *Delivery Miles Only*, gk09nwt, diesel, white, 100 miles, £11495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802

L200, 2.5 DiD Single Cab 4 Life tow bar. saving over_, silver, 100 miles, £11495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr, gk08ycg, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, radio/cd, rear unver artuay, radio/rd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:8, 3yrs / 37500 mile free servicing with this car, silver, 9000 miles, £12995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE) PEUGEOT

LANCER, 1.6 Equippe 5dr Auto.

107, 1.0 Sport XS 3dr, gj07tuv, abs, 107, 1.0 Sp0rt As Jorr, IgD/Tud, and adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric windows, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:1, black, 9800 miles, 56995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADF)

ROVER

216 SLI, silver, M-reg, 1995.
97,000 miles, second owner, FSH same garage. Taxed & MoT till end August. Leather seats, electric windows etc. Good condition and reliable. £600. Tenterden 07736 426163 (PRIVATE)

FORTWO cabrio passion, 2004, jack black, 24538 miles, £5695, Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

FORTWO coupé passion, 2008, blue metallic, 7400 miles, £7990, Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

COROLLA, 1.4 D-4D Colour Collection 3dr, gv06nyo, abs, adjustable seats, electric mirrors, side airbags. silver, 33000 miles, £6995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

CORSA, 1.4i 16V SXi 5dr Auto [AC], vn07ons, adjustable seats, ai conditioning, radio/cd, black, 15000 miles, £8995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

CORSA, 1.2i 16V SXi+ [80] 3dr, lv07nwn, abs. metallic paintwork power assisted steering, radio, side airbags. red, 24500 miles, £6995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

VOLVO

\$80, SE, x 2000, f.s.h. big service @90,000 inc timing belt, last service 102, 000. cd/cassette/ radio, leather/suede, metalic brown, 102000 miles, £2550. Martyn Bax, Kent, 07732395383 (PRIVATE)

01303 275114 01303 278329

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Deadline for sending us photo advertisements is Friday at midday prior to Wednesdays publication.



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TO ADVERTISE: © EMAIL US @: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

TELEPHONE US ON: 01303 817040 **FAX US ON:** 01303 817004

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SUPPORT WORKER

required for four hours on a Thursday evening to support a young lady with learning disabilities in her own home in Teynham. Other positions may be available.

Apply to Jenny 01634 715995 c.r.service@ btconnect.com

Recycling Advisors/ Supervisors

required to join our exciting Public Engagement Team, working across Kent on behalf of the Kent Waste Partnership to promote recycling to residents. Advisors: £7.00 p/h + expenses.
Supervisors: £8.25 p/h + expenses. All positions full time (max 40 hours per week) for 11 weeks. Must be able to work evenings and weekends. Start date 08/05/09.

For an application form contact Azim Khan at M-E-L Research on 0121 604 4664 or email azim.khan@m-e-l.co.uk

To advertise in this section



KOS Media, publisher of the award-winning Kent on Sunday, the Saturday Observer, and our midweek titles and associated websites, has a vacancy for a

Freelance sub-editor

We are currently looking for a freelance sub-editor for three days work a week. Candidates must have excellent QuarkXpress skills and be competent at using Adobe Photoshop.

You will be able to spot a typo at 100 paces and be able to write attention-grabbing headlines.

• To apply, send a CV and covering letter to: Dave Hobday, Head of Subbing or email dave.hobday@kosmedia.co.uk.



KOS Media Apple Barn. Hythe Road, Smeeth Kent TN25 6SR

Dover District Carers' Support

PROIECT WORKER

37.5 hrs per week (part-time may be considered for the right applicant) Salary (NIC Scale 4): £17,574

One year fixed term (possibility to extend subject to longer-term funding)

The organisation provides support, advice and information to people over the age of 18 who care (unpaid) for a relative or friend. We are funded, in part, by Social Services and have contact with many other public and private sector bodies.

For this post we are looking for a sensitive, confident, versatile and articulate person who will champion the role of Carers. They will provide support and information on the phone or to Carers calling in at our newly opened Carers' Centre. This busy and demanding role will also include liaising with our many contacts to provide a quality service, as well as being involved in new projects. The work will be both office-based and involve regular travel to meetings and projects outside the office.

A full driving licence and your own transport are essential for this role.

For an application pack, please write to:

Tricia Cole, Manager, DDCS, 10 Victoria Road, Deal, Kent CT14 7AP

For further information email: sue@carers-doverdistrict.org Closing date: Friday 24 April 2009

Please note this is NOT a Careworker post. Registered Charity No. 1097782

Swale Marina Clubhouse @ Conyer Require: BAR STAFF

Shifts/hours to suit Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon

COOK

Food hygiene certificate essential. Shifts/hours: Fri - Evening, Sat - Lunch, Sat - Evening, Sun - Lunch. Please contact the Marina Office on 01795 521562 Or e-mail enquiries swale.marina@virgin.net

We are looking for: Waiting / Bar Staff kitchen Porters & **Commis Chef**

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Keele House, Ramsgate **EXPERIENCED CARER**

with at least NVQ2
Full time
Shift work – alternative weekends Please contact Margar on 01843 591735

Catalogue Distributors Required £50-£300 per week

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Flexi hours, Part or full time, 18+ Tel: 0845 8736035 www.aim2aspire.co.uk

New Career for 2009



The Royal School of Military Engineering, Brompton Barracks, Chatham

Faculty Manager c£40k plus performance related pay

Candidates should have management experience and be well organised and disciplined. Reporting to the Head of Division you will be responsible for the efficient "day to day" operation of the faculty with a number of Programme Area Leaders, covering a wide range of engineering trade disciplines, reporting to you.

Leadership, Influence and Decision Making are critical skills that a candidate will be able to evidence.

Programme Area Leader £30,312 - £35,000

Candidates should possess relevant trade qualifications and experience in Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (ACR) or Heating and Plumbing (H&P) and be able to demonstrate supervisory skills and experience, ideally within these trade areas. Candidates will be required to undertake teaching duties in these trade disciplines, if required to maintain course

Evidence of formal teaching experience or qualifications is not critical as candidates will be provided with appropriate training and supported to achieve appropriate teaching qualifications. You will supervise a number of trade instructors.

MKC Training Services Limited is responsible for delivering the trade, technical and professional training to the Royal Engineers at Chatham and has recently been awarded a 30 year contract. These positions are therefore permanent full time posts with the opportunity for the right candidates to join an exciting organisation making a real difference to the British Army

If this looks like the right career move for you, contact Ken Pullan on 07725 128661 for an informal discussion or forward a copy of your CV to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

Job descriptions for these posts are available at www.midkent.ac.uk (follow RSME vacancies)

Closing date: 19th April 2009

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on omes applications from all sections of society We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled

MidKent College is an equal opportunity employer





ephone editorial: 01303 817200



Career Opportunities



Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Supply Lecturer Administration

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 noon. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting

the above reference. Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to main bus & train stations Close to Town Centre

· Generous Holiday Allowance



www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL

01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



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Opportunities at





Canterbury City Council is a big business with a turnover of more than £100 million and over 900 employees. Rated an Excellent Council and a Times Best Council to Work For, Canterbury is a great place to work. Our conditions include final salary pension scheme plus benefits, flexible working hours and relocation package (where applicable).

Economic Development Officer

Chief Executive's Department ■ Salary range £20,517 to £25,719 pa ■ Permanent position ■ 37 hours per week

We are looking for an individual to manage projects that promote and support local economic

You will demonstrate an understanding of economic development issues and have excellent communication skills to develop relationships within the organisation and with partners including the

Please quote job reference: 1814

Transmanche Enterprise Network Project Officer

Chief Executive's Department ■ Salary range £25,729 to £28,191 pa pro rata 22.5 hours per week ■ Three year fixed term contract

Are you self-motivated, excellent at project management and partnership development and experienced in European funding?

This exciting role involves supporting and encouraging entrepreneurship, the development of micro businesses and encouraging cross border trading. French or Flemish language skills would be an advantage and the ability to travel and work flexible hours are required.

Please quote job reference: 1815

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 12 noon 17 April 2009 Interviews and assessment process will take place on:

Job reference 1814: 29 April 2009 Job reference 1815: 30 April 2009

We prefer applications on-line. For further details of these positions and all our latest opportunities and to apply on-line, visit our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/jobs or e-mail jobs@canterbury.gov.uk If you are unable to access the internet, telephone 01227 862 072

We can supply application packs in Braille or large print format if required

We are an equal opportunities employer.







A Key Stage 1 **Teacher Vacancy**

Temple Ewell C.E. **Primary School**

To cover maternity leave from September 2009 in a very popular, small, supportive and friendly C. of E. village school. Mixed year group class.

Would suit NQT or experienced teacher who is well motivated and has knowledge of creative curriculum

If you are interested in this position, ase call the school office (01304 822 to book an appointment to view the school and receive an application pack.

Closing date - 24th April 2009 Date of interview - 5th May 2009



Career Opportunities



09/11

06/110

09/04

S/RDN

FCO

S/NVQ/EY

S/NVQ/PW

S/NVQ/CS S/NVQ/SEC

S/EC

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Head of Faculty Arts. Media and Publishing

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £42,128 per annum

Manager Health & Social Care

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum Temporary Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and

Environmental Conservation

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum. Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed 12 months

Supply Registered Dental Nurse or Registered Hygienist required to lecture on a range of courses

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturer required in the following areas:

S/FL Floristry Security S/SEC

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

Examinations Coordinator 37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,963 per annum

Supply NVQ Assessors required in the following areas:

Playwork

Cleaning Support (Cleaning and Domestic) Security

Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturers within the Faculty of Engineering and Construction

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum We run a wide range of courses from basic to advanced level and we are looking for professionals from the various trades to join our team of part-time staff. You will need to have suitable qualifications - such as C&G, BTEC, IMI, CITB or similar and current experience in one of the areas. We offer a teacher training programme to suitable applicants who wish to join us in providing this important service to the

- Mechanical Engineering
- Bench fitting
- Turning and milling CAD
- Welding
- Motor vehicle mechanics
- Vehicle parts
- Vehicle electrics Brickwork
- Carpentry
- Electrical installation
- Vehicle painting Vehicle body work
- Plumbing
- Gas fitting Key Skills
- Mathematics
- ICT
- Any other related trade

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 noon

For an information pack please visit www.canterburvcollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- · Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- · Sports Hall & Gym
- · Close to City Centre
- · Staff Discount Scheme



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CALL
01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



Putting people first

SCHOOL RECEPTION SECRETARY

A Temporary, part time, position has arisen, due to retirement, in Riverview Junior School's front office.

The contract will be for 3 months.

We are looking for someone with good people skills, professional telephone manner and who enjoys working with children. The successful candidate must be computer literate.

Closing date for applications is 9th April 2009.

Please contact the Headteacher Mrs R Dymond or the School Business Manager Mrs S Donovan at Riverview Junior School

Cimba Wood, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4SD Email: headteacher@riverview-junior.kent.sch.uk

PART-TIME FIELD SALES EXECUTIVE DON'T EVEN CALL UNLESS YOU ARE AN OVER ACHIEVER & CAN PROVE IT!

We are a high quality, established company who have been trading in the construction industry for over 30 years Come and build an empire within our fine company.

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If you were an **average** executive in 2009, you have earned so far this year your basic pay plus over £3,000 in **commission**. If you were a **star** you would have earned the same basic plus over £6,000 in **commission**.

YOUNG OR OLD, IF YOU HAVE GOT WHAT IT TAKES, WE WILL KNOW!

Contact us on: 01634 263121



MERIDIAN CARE COMMUNITY CARERS

FANCY A CHANGE IN CAREER THAT IS REWARDING? All shifts required, especially evenings and weekends in Canterbury, Deal, Sandwich and Dover

Full training given. Competitive rates of pay with enhancement paid for NVQ qualification, Uniform supplied and mileage allowance paid.

Please contact Sharon for further details

For Canterbury, Deal and Sandwich call 01227 712300 For Dover call 01304 240424

or email meridiancbury@aol.com



All candidates must be educated to HND/HNC Building Studies or BSC Quantity Surveying or equivalent and come from an Engineering/Construction background with a proven track record in Quantity Surveying.

The successful applicants must be commercially aware in dealing with sub-contract payments, interim monthly accounts, re-measurement, controlling contracts to budgetary requirements and final accounting.



Please apply in writing to Mr N Piper, Piper Double Glazing Ltd, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP



Intervenor for Children and Young **People with Multisensory** Impairment/Deafblind

Starting salary £23,053, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,421 pro rata

3 x 25 hours per week

Fixed Term posts until 31st March 2011

Countywide

Work bases for each post are:

West Kent: Kings Hill, West Malling Mid Kent: Kroner House, Ashford East Kent: Clover House, Whitstable

This is an exciting initiative under Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families.

This is an opportunity for practitioners experienced in working with children and young people with sensory impairment to work as intervenors with deafblind children from birth to 19 years of age.

Also working with families to develop and support individual communication modes, you will support children and young people with Multisensory Impairment (MSI)/deafblind to participate in extended services and community activities and so to enable families to experience "short breaks".

Working within the Specialist Teaching Service and in liaison with Disabled Children's Service, you will enskill service providers to communicate effectively with children and young people with MSI/deafblind and to support smooth transitions.

You should hold a suitable qualification within this field at NVQ level 3 or equivalent coupled with an additional qualification in MSI/deafblind, sign language, Braille, mobility or guide-communicator.

The 25 hours per week will be delivered flexibly to meet the needs of children, young people and their families as the post is likely to require some work in the evenings and/or weekends

The ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day to meet the requirements of the service is essential.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

> To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote reference: CFE/09/0113. Closing date: Midday, 21st April 2009.





www**.kent.**gov.uk/jobs

CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT

Eastern and Coastal Kent

From Whitstable to Dover, Ashford to Canterbury, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent. We work hard to improve health and wellbeing, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality

As one of Kent's largest employers, we aim to have a world-class workforce Invest your skills in us and we'll invest in you with personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and many other valuable benefits.

Health Visitor X 2 (*) (⊜)

Ref: 767-ECL1021

Band 6: £24,831 - £33,436 per annum (pro rata for part time) Herne Bay & Whitstable, Kent Full Time: 37.5 Hours per week (30 Hours would be considered)

We are looking for two dynamic, innovative, self-motivated, qualified Health Visitors to work in Herne Bay and Whitstable. You will be joining teams supported by skill mix and working towards integration with school nursing to provide a seamless service to children and families in our locality. We work within the Eastern and Coastal Kent Framework for Health Visiting, providing a progressive universal service

If you are pro-active and keen to develop the Public Health Agenda and are also interested in developing services which respond to the needs of the community, then we would love to hear from you.

Excellent communication skills, a flexible, forward thinking approach and commitment to team working are crucial.

It is recommended that you phone the teams for an informal discussion and they will be very happy to facilitate an informal visit. Please contact the Whitstable Team on 01227 378558, the Herne Bay team on 01227 594773 or Susan Gough, Locality Clinical Co-ordinator on 01843 855487

me re-location expenses may be agreed as per our Relocation Policy

A comprehensive corporate induction programme is provided at the commencement of employment.

Please ensure that you check your NHS Jobs account regularly in order to see if you have been successful in obtaining an intervie

(*) Employment in this post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau [] Car owner/driver essential, subject to the provisions of the Disability

For further information and to apply, please visit wwweasternandcoastalkent nhs uk

Discrimination Act [1995]

Completed applications by: 17 April 2009. Interviews to be held on: 6 May 2009 (Provisionally)

We are an equal opportunities employer Committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults



PARTS ASSISTANT

Baileys Nissan require a Parts Assistant for busy parts department. Parts experience is essential. Nissan knowledge an advantage. Clean driving license required.

Apply with CV to Mr G Tong Baileys Nissan Westminster Road Vauxhall Ind. Estate Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YY



email: guy.tong@baileysnissan.co.uk

ACCOUNTS CLERK Six Month Contract Salary dependant on experience

Clive Emson Auctioneers has a vacancy for a Full-time Accounts Clerk to join our
Maidstone Office.

Duties: All aspects of the running of our busy

Dates: All aspects of the running of our busy Accounts Department including data inputting, daily management of invoices, payroll, clients account, monthly bank reconciliations and all other duties up to trial balance level.

Sage Line 50 experience essential.

AAT qualification or equivalent desirable.

Apply in writing, with CV, to: Miss Andrea nett, Clive Emson Auctioneers, Rocky Hill, London Road, Maidstone, ME16 8PY or email: andrea@cliveemson.co.uk Closing Date: Friday, 24 April 2009





St Simon Stock Catholic School

SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNICIAN DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN

Science Laboratory Technician, 35 hours per week for 38 weeks a year (term time only).

Design & Technology Technician, part-time for 38 weeks a year (term time only).

Both salaries dependent on experience - Band 3 Kent Scheme Salaries

For further information please contact the Headteacher's P.A. Mrs. Theisen on telephone number 01622 689422 or email headteacher@st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk You can also visit our website to download an application form and job description at www.st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk

Closing date, Friday 24th April 2009 at 2pm interviews will take place shortly afterwards

We are committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults













KOS Media, publisher of the award-winning Kent on Sunday, the Saturday Observer, and the YourLocal midweek titles and associated websites,

Distribution & Promotional staff

Part-time Weekends.

We require a number of staff across the county to assist in the distribution and promotion of our award winning titles.

The job will involve delivery to specific addresses, both business and residential, as well as assisting with various promotions in stores or at specific venues.

Good rates of pay, plus expenses.

• Please telephone Barbara or Lyndsay on 01303 817070.



JOURNALISTS REQUIRED (Freelance/Contract)

KOS Media launched its Midweek series of local newspapers 18 months ago and there are now 10 titles covering towns and districts across East and Mid Kent.

Our industry is going through change but KOS Media's successful mix of newspapers, websites and online TV offers news journalists a unique challenge.

If you think you would like to be part of a growing media company and you are experienced, able to write great copy, confident enough to take responsibility and also come up with great ideas, I'd like to hear from you.

I have freelance and contract positions which I know will suit a lot of good journalists in this county.



Contact: Gary Wright, Midweek Group Editor on 01303 817032

or email gary.wright@kosmedia.co.uk



The Fuji Seal Group is the only shrink sleeve manufacturer offering a complete single source solution utilising its network of manufacturing operations in the UK, Netherlands, France, Poland, USA, Asia and Japan.

We are recruiting the following positions:

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Duties will include providing the sales team with administration support as well as liaising directly with customers and other internal departments to ensure projects run smoothly and delivery dates are met. Effective communication is key as well as good organisation skills.

GENERAL DUTIES PRINT (DAYS)

Duties will include making of Doctor Blades for printing presses, operation of automated cleaning of Ink buckets, maintaining equipment and housekeeping. Full training will be provided.

You'll enjoy a full range of employee benefits.

To apply please send your CV to HR Department, Fuji Seal Europe Ltd, Scimitar Close, Gillingham Business Park, Gillingham, Kent ME8 ORJ or alternatively you can email to jobs@uk.fujiseal.com

Closing date: 6 April 2009

STRICTLY NO AGENCIES PLEASE

Fuji Seal Europe are an equal opportunities employer.



MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following area:

Personal Tutor Ref: P0316 (Full-time, Part-time and Fixed Term)

Salary: £20,368 - £26,255 per annum/pro rata

We currently have a number of opportunities for full-time and part-time Personal Tutors. As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification. When applying, please state clearly your preferred role.

Closing date: Friday 17 April 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer





St Simon Stock Catholic School

TEACHER OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY / TEXTILES - MPS

As a Specialist Technology College we are seeking to

appoint a well-qualified, enthusiastic and energetic

teacher to join this successful and developing department that is expanding into KS5 with Food Technology and Textiles. Ability to teach other design

and technology subjects would be an advantage.

For further information please contact the Headteacher's P.A. Mrs. Theisen on telephone number 01622 689422 or

email headteacher@stsimon-stock.kent.sch.uk You can also visit our website to download an application

form and job description at www.st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk

Closing date, Tuesday 21st April 2009 at 4pm - interviews

will take place shortly afterwards

We are committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults



9-







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Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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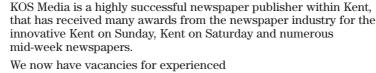












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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Over-40s reminded future can be bright

A NEW programme to help the over-40s facing the dole or already unemployed is being piloted in the county.

Called Shape Your Future, it's a free workshop taking place over two and a half days to allow people to explore selfemployment as an option for the future. Business Link's Sharon Massingham,

Business Link's Sharon Massingham, who designed the programme, said: "Facing redundancy is frightening, particularly in the current climate, especially for those who are more mature and fear they might not find work again.

"It is important to recognise that it was the job that was lost, not you. You have the same skills, knowledge and experience you had before you were made redundant.

"It may be you are passionate about a hobby or interest that could be a potential business opportunity. Why not come along and find out if it is a possibility?"

and find out if it is a possibility?"

Dates are April 27 and April 29 at Lordswood; and tomorrow (Thursday), May 19 and May 21 at Chatham.

Further workshops, including one aimed specifically at executives and professionals, will take place in Medway during May and June.

The programme is funded by the South East England Development Agency. Details on 01732 878586.

Forum says demand more from suppliers

ANYONE running a business knows that one or two suppliers and the odd client can be pains in the nether regions, but the Forum of Private Business says dealing with them has become one of the biggest headaches.

The forum, which represents many businesses in Kent, is urging small firms to save money by creating more efficient dealings with suppliers.

A survey by research and consulting agency YouGov found that 42 per cent of the owners of small businesses who responded were most anxious about dealing with difficult suppliers and clients. The same proportion said that their greatest concern was the fear of technology not working properly.

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Julie Maddocks asks: 'Is small really beautiful in business?' Search 'crunch'

Trish's top tips could make the difference

BY TONY PATEY

TRAINING and development have shot to the forefront of business agendas as bosses realise that looking after their staff can help fight tough trading conditions.

With redundancies taking their toll, employers want to boost the morale and motivation of those still in work and training for the future is a key way of doing that.

Trish Fraser, managing director of Quality South East, the Investors in People centre for Kent, said: "Although it is generally accepted that staff development pays for itself in the long run, most companies are thinking about the short term at the moment.

"Making the case for investing in staff development has become more difficult in the past year as many organisations are focusing on efficiency and cost-cutting.

"However, those companies that look after their staff are much more likely to survive the recession."

Her top tips to help companies think about how they can develop their staff cost-effective-

- Prioritise training needs. Instead of cutting the budget on all training, think about what is essential for the organisation's development and which is desirable.
- Training does not have to be conducted by a specialist provider. People within an organisation that have received training are often very well equipped to deliver it and share best practice, which is also an empowering experience for employees.
- Development does not just mean training. Think about employees' roles and how their skills can be broadened through learning on the job
- Allow employees flexible hours to pursue their own interests or to volunteer. Both can



PEOPLE MATTER: Trish Fraser, of Quality South East, says that training and development of workers remains crucial

lead to ongoing development, as well as helping staff to feel appreciated, without a cost to the employer.

- Following major reorganisations, many people are being asked to cover new and expanded roles, but it is important that employees do not feel new responsibilities are being forced on them. Helping staff to feel motivated to test themselves will maintain productivity.
- Managers must help employees get to grips with new situations and challenges they are facing. Low morale and a lack of skills will ultimately impact the bottom line in so many
- ways, both in the long and in the short term.

 Look at subsidised courses. Government grants are available and it is worth investigat-
- grants are available and it is worth investigating the help that is out there.

 Online courses, whether bought in or developed in bourses, whether bought in or developed in the course of the state o
- online courses, whether bought in or developed in-house, can be very cost-effective. Employees can work at a time to suit them and do not have to spend days out of the office.
- Good communication is essential; encourage staff to talk to each other and share ideas. It may be that an employee has discovered an ingenious way of overcoming a problem that his or her colleagues are struggling with.



FOOTBALL

Double-header to decide whether Town take crown



WELL DONE: Hythe players get ready to celebrate

Hythe Town 1 Beckenham Town 0

HYTHE Town are now just two wins away from clinching the Kent League Premier Division title and with it promotion to the Ryman League.

Paul Fisk's side opened the scoring after 15 minutes through Gary Mickelborough and the winger's strike proved enough to earn Town the three points which keeps them top and ahead of the chasing pack.

Attention will now turn to the results of VCD Athletic and Holmesdale ahead of the six days that will most probably decide the fate of the Kent League title as Hythe's closest rivals come to Reachfields in succession for the two biggest games of the season.

Fisk's side are without a game at the weekend, but return to action on Easter Monday when they take on VCD at Reachfields. With a four-point lead over second-placed Holmesdale, a win would set up the following Saturday's visit of the Dalers perfectly, with Town knowing that three points would secure them the title and promotion.

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Mark Stimson discusses what he feels has been turning point of the season





TOUGH-GOING: Folkestone Invicta boss Neil Cugley (left) was left frustrated by his young and injury-ravaged side's missed opportunities, the closest coming from Darren Smith (right)

Cugley rues missed chances as visitors' experience tells

FRUSTRATION was the order of the day for Folkestone Invicta, as they came close to an upset against Ryman South promotion contenders Kingstonian on Saturday.

Invicta created five clear chances in the first half and hit the post, but they were undone by a more clinical and experienced side.

"The chances we missed were all from nine or ten yards and we hit the post from 25 yards, manager Neil Cugley, himself a prolific striker during his playing career, said ruefully.

It was livewire midfielder Darren Smith who came closest for the home side, with a long-range effort that rebounded to safety after hitting the upright of Kingstonian keeper Luke

The home side suffered an early blow when James Everett limped off with a hamstring injury and, with Cugley's collection of walking wounded and young players repeatedly spurning chances, the difference between the sides was Kingstonian's pacey forward Dean Lodge.

He fooled Invicta's inexperienced teenage defender Josh Vincent into conceding a penalty after 21 minutes, manoeuvring his way past

FOOTBALL

BY FRED ATKINS

Folkestone Invicta 0



Kingstonian 2

Traynor (pen) 21, Thompson 30

him after a throw-in and then drawing the foul. Bobby Traynor made it 1-0 from the spot and Cugley had few complaints.

"It was one of those decisions," the manager reflected. "He's a young lad who's got caught on the wrong side of the attacker and although it was a bit disappointing to see it given, if it had happened at the other end we'd have been claiming it.

Stronger

On the half hour it was 2-0, with Adam Thompson showing Invicta's misfiring strikers how to find the target by rifling an effort past

Folkestone Invicta starting XI



Subs used: Driscoll (J Everett 15)

For all Folkestone's promise in the first half, they seldom threatened after the break, with Cugley admitting Kingstonian deserved

"They defended very well," he said. "We never really looked like scoring in the second half and it's just frustrating – because of all the injuries

we've got it I have to keep patching up the squad. "I think Cray were a lot stronger physically [than Kingstonian], but I think they've still got to play each other, so that's going to be one hell

 Folkestone travel to Dulwich on Saturday, before Easter Monday's derby with Ashford at Cheriton Road (kick-off 3pm).



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Hess: some of this squad are playing for their future

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD AND GLENN PEARSON

Heybridge Swifts 1



Dover Athletic 1

Welford 69

DOVER remain on course to reach their 100-point target, but were made to battle for a draw at struggling Heybridge Swifts.

The home side, battling to stay in the division, opened the scoring after 12 minutes when Whites goalkeeper Preston Edwards found himself in no-man's-land, allowing striker Ben Coglin to hit home into an unguarded net.

The champions looked to be suffering a bit of a hangover in the first half, with Shaun Welford's header which drifted wide, being their best effort of a poor first half. In the second half, James Rogers cracked the

In the second half, James Rogers cracked the crossbar with an audacious volley from the edge of the area, before Andy Hessenthaler's side equalised just after the hour mark. Substitute Jerahl Hughes found space and hit a weak shot that dribbled across goal before being slammed home by Welford.

Rogers again came close to getting his name on the score sheet, but this time he was denied



ON THE BALL: Olly Schulz prepares to take a free-kick for Dover during the weeken's draw away at Heybridge Swifts

by the post and in the end Dover had to settle

Hessenthaler said: "We didn't play very well, but I have got to give Heybridge credit, they are fighting for their lives and did well.

Positives

"They had one chance to score and took it. We didn't play as well as I would have liked, but we had chances to win the game as we hit the post and the crossbar, but a draw was probably a fair result."

Dover Athletic starting XI



Subs used: Sidebe (Pouton 66), Hughes (Jones 56)

The former Gillingham boss has already told his players he doesn't expect them to just give up after securing the Ryman Premier title, and has warned them to up their game in the final few matches of the season.

"I have told a few of the players that they are playing for their futures at the club," he said.

"A season does not finish after 37 games so the players still have something to play for.

"I still want to get to 100 points and we are five points away from that and have four games to go, so we will keep pushing." New signing Lassana Sidibe came on as a

New signing Lassana Sidibe came on as a substitute and played his part in Welford's goal. The winger, who is former Gillingham striker Mamedy Sidebe's brother, has joined on a non-contract basis until the end of the season.

Hessenthler added: "We have brought Lassana to the club to have a look at and to be fair to him he was one of the positives on Saturday. He came on and helped create the goal. We will have a look at him between now and the end of the season."

RALLYCROSS



WELCOME: European Rallycross back at Dover circuit

European Rallycross returns at Lydden after 16-year wait

THE waiting is almost over for Lydden Hill as they are set to host the opening round of the European Rallycross Championship this Easter weekend.

The Dover circuit is set for a record crowd on the verge of 30,000 to flock to the 'home of rallycross' for the return of the championship after a 16-year wait.

onship after a 16-year wait.

The series, which is described as the rallycross version of the British Touring Car Championship, will see cars that can out accelerate a Formula One car, compete on the one-mile circuit.

Hosting the biggest event in rallycross marks the rise of the circuit from the ashes. Lydden faced extinction in autumn 2008, until one of the sport's most famous families - the Doran's - stepped in

until one of the sport's most famous families - the Doran's - stepped in.

A figure in the region of £1 million has been pumped into the venue since the Doran's have taken charge and the future looks bright for circuit.

Passion

Managing director Amy Doran said: "We have worked so hard to get what we have now. We didn't take it on from a business point of view, it was more of a passion.

"There has been a lot of blood, sweat and tears – it has not been easy, but since we have taken it over we have spent about a million pounds on improving it. Having the European event is a major positive."

European event is a major positive."

Among some of the best rallycross drivers in the world battling for honours, Lydden will welcome Murray Walker to commentate on the action.

He said: "I have so many happy memories of being at Lydden, in the days when the BBC featured rallycross in their Grandstand programmes that made the sport a viewing must, and I'm expecting both to relive and create some new ones."

both to relive and create some new ones." As for who will take the chequered flag on Monday, the smart money would be on 14-time European champion Kenneth Hanson.

However, after a successful winter, which included a win in the British Rallycross Champion, Liam Doran is expected to challenge for honours flying the flag for Great Britain.

LEAGUE TABLESRYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

1 Dover Athletic	38	30	5	3	+52	
2 Staines Town	38	22	12	4	+34	
3 Tonbridge Angels	37	19	10	8	+29	
4 Sutton United	38	16	12	10	+3	- 6
5 Carshalton Athletic	38	16	10	12	-4	i
6 Wealdstone	38	16	7	15	+12	ī
7 AFC Hornchurch	37	16	7	14	+3	i
8 Maidstone United	37	14	ii	12	+3	
9 Dartford	37	14	9	14	+3	
10 Tooting & Mitcham	38	14	8	16	-4	- 1
11 Canvey Island	38	14	7	17	-2	- 7
12 Horsham	36	14	6	16	-5	
13 Billericay Town	37	13	9	15	-13	
14 Harrow Borough	36	12	12	12	-14	
15 Harlow Town	38	13	6	19	-9	
16 Hastings United	38	13	6	19	-14	
17 Ashford Town	36	14	2	20	-8	
18 Boreham Wood	38	îi	10	17	-13	
19 Hendon	37	12	6	19	+1	
20 Margate	38	11	7	20	-12	
21 Heybridge Swifts	38	8	ń	19	-20	
22 Pamenato	38	8	11	19	-22	

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

1 Kingstonian	37	22	7	8	+36	73
2 Cray Wanderers	38	22	7	9	+30	73
3 Fleet Town	38	19	14	Ś	+37	71
4 Metropolitan Police	38	18	13	7	+23	67
5 Worthing	38	18	13	7	+23	67
6 Sittingbourne	38	17	12	9	+9	63
7 Merstham	38	17	9	12	+5	60
8 Ashford Town	38	15	14	9	+17	59
9 Godalming Town	38	16	9	13	+20	57
10 Eastbourne Town	37	16	6	15	+3	54
11 Dulwich Hamlet	38	14	14	10	+13	53
12 Croydon Athletic	38	13	13	12	+6	52
13 Folkestone Invicta	38				+6 +5	52 52
		14	10	14		
14 Walton & Hersham	38	13	9	16	-7	48
15 Leatherhead	38	12	7	19	-19	43
16 Whitstable Town	38	12	6	20	-21	42
17 Walton Casuals	38	11	8	19	-10	41
18 Corinthian-Casuals	38	10	10	18	-25	40
19 Whyteleafe	38	10	9	19	-14	39
20 Burgess Hill Town	38	8	13	17	-19	37
21 Chipstead	38	8	11	19	-34	35
22 Complete Addition						

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

KENT LEAGUE P	REMIE	R DIVI	SION			
1 Hythe Town	29	20	3	6	31	63
2 Holmesdale	28	18	5	5	30	59
3 Herne Bay	29	18	2	9	17	56
4 VCD Athletic	27	17	4	6	37	55
5 Faversham Town	28	17	2	9	41	53
6 Greenwich Borough	28	17	3	8	12	53
7 Erith Town	27	12	9	6	21	47
8 Croydon	27	13	4	10	19	43
9 Erith & Belvedere	27	13	4	10	11	43
10 Tunbridge Wells	29	12	5	12	1	41
11 Norton Sports	27	10	3	14	-11	33
12 Deal Town	27	8	7	12	0	31
13 Slade Green	27	9	4	14	-8	31
14 Sevenoaks Town	29	9	4	16	-17	31
15 Beckenham Town	29	8	2	19	-21	26
16 Lordswood	28	6	3	19	-29	21
17 Sporting Bengal	32	0	0	32	-134	0

FIXTURES

(Saturday): Ryman Premier League: Dover Athletic v Boreham Wood; Ryman South: Dulwich Hamlet v Folkestone Invicta; Kent League: Deal Town v Sevenoaks Town

Sharks sunk by a double whammy from Gravesend

RUGBY

Gravesend 20 Dover 19

FOR the second time this season, Gravesend edged out Dover Sharks by a solitary point in another hardfought affair.

Dover's start could not have been better. Direct from kick-off, Sam Coughlan took possession of a loose ball which was fed across the park to Ricky Mackintosh who touched down in the right hand corner with less than a minute on the clock.

The conversion was missed. G's responded, and from a penalty they recycled the ball to their right winger who scored after four minutes. Dover were under immense pressure and following a number of penalties conceded, G's took a quick tap to touch down with the extras added.

Dover had a difficult 25 minutes to contend with and they made numerous basic mistakes giving the hosts the upper hand. G's kicked a penalty late on to take a well-deserved lead.

With the advantage of the slope in the second half, Dover started well, but G's scored the killer try. Dover fought back, lifted their game and pressurised and they were soon back in contention when Stuart Dean fed Buster Collins to touch down, with Martyn Beaumont adding the extras.

Dover found themselves on the back foot, but they responded with a Beaumont try after 63 minutes.

The Sharks missed a penalty late on which would have won them the game.



TIGHT MATCH: Dover were pipped by a single point against Gravesend for the second time this season

Senior coach Graham Tonks said: "We have only ourselves to blame having made too many errors and basic mistakes.

"We must be more clinical when opportunities are on offer, but overall the lads have again proved their worth against one of the best teams in the league."

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